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Saipan Tribune

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Sunday, September 26, 2010

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Joe Race was walking along the beach when he saw something bobbing in the water.

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Power rate hike proposal junked

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission has junked the proposed power rate increase for the next six months, saying the current rate is just and reasonable. **See POWER on Page 4**

Advance parole hiked to $360

» Increased fees to take effect Nov. 23, 2010

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security issued Friday a final rule increasing fees for immigration benefit applications and petitions, including for travel document Form I-131, or advance parole, and Form I-129CW for petition for non-immigrant worker in the CNMI.

The advance parole application fee will increase to $360, from the current $305.

The petition for non-immigrant

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IN BUDGET BILL SAGA

Only 3 of 10 differences resolved

From left, Senate floor leader Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan), Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota), Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan), Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), and Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) discuss the fiscal year 2011 budget bill in the hallway of the House chamber during a break in the conference committee's meeting on Friday afternoon. The committee plans to meet again today to try to hash out differences in the $132 million budget bill and prevent a government shutdown on Oct. 1.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

SAIPAN TRIBUNE/ROSS GARCIA

4 DAYS left before the start of the new fiscal year

BUDGET STATUS

Status of 10 major differences between House and Senate budget bills

		STATUS
1.	PSS budget to meet MOE	Agreed
2.	NMC budget to meet MOE	Agreed
3.	Zoning Boad budget reinstatement	Agreed
4.	Utilities payments	Discussed but yet to agree on
5.	Lawmakers' discretionary funding	Discussed but no final decision
6.	Legislature leadership account	Not discussed yet
7.	Judiciary budget	Not discussed yet
8.	Rota budget	Not discussed yet
9.	Tinian budget	Not discussed yet
10.	Work hour cuts: 8 vs 16	Discussed since day 1 but no agreement

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

» With looming govt shutdown, Fitial to issue list of exempt essential positions today

A government shutdown on Friday now looms, yet only three of the 10 major differences in the Senate and House of Representatives' versions of the budget bill have so far been

See BUDGET on Page 4

Local

Live the Fiesta Way!
What's cooking this week at
Chambre
BAR
Healthy Menu
Main Course
MONDAY- Seafood Pot
TUESDAY - Ko Po Spicy Chicken
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Local author finds notes in bottles

Joe Race reading and interpreting the three notes with his daughter Paila Race.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Three bottles rescued from the sea with notes inside from Guam High School students.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Local author Joe Race and his wife were walking along the Laulau Beach coast last Saturday at twilight when he saw something bobbing in the water.

"I thought somebody got lucky and caught a big fish," said the Criminal Justice teacher at the Northern Marianas College.

As luck would have it, it was what Race had always wanted to find: a bottle with a note inside.

"I've been combing beaches for over 60 years," Race told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that he had always looked forward to stumbling upon "a bottle with a message inside."

Besides the bottle still floating in the water, Race found two more bottles washed on shore during high tide.

"I finally found a bottle and I hit the jackpot because I found three at one time," he said.

Race said all three wine bottles, each tightly corked and with a note inside. "The wine bottles were not eroded or covered with sea crust, so I assumed they hadn't been in the water long," he said.

Race and his wife took the bottles home right away. He said family members speculated on where the bottles might have come from and what was written in the notes inside.

"I was hoping I'd find a love note or a treasure map," he said.

When he opened the bottles, Race said they all contained the same notes: that the drift bottles were part of a study about currents by George Washington High School students from Hagatna, Guam.

The bottles were sent by Gerard Chargualaf, Ricky Meeks, and Shaun Avellana.

According to Race, the notes said the drift bottles had been dropped in the ocean on Sept. 11, taking two weeks for the bottles to reach Saipan from Guam.

The notes also contained instructions on how to return the information about the currents. Race said he plans to send back the notes today by postal mail.

"It appears that I'll have to continue my search for a bottle with a dramatic note inside or maybe a genie in the bottle," said Race, adding that that he will do it for as long as he "can stay vertical and keep walking."

Navy, Air Force training on FDM

Santa Rita, Guam—The U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force will conduct training on Farallon de Medinilla on Sept. 28, 2010, from noon to midnight.

The general public, especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear from these areas during the times and date indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. ***(USN)***

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Younis steps down as NMC search panel chair

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas College regent Maria Paz Younis stepped down as chairperson of the presidential search committee during Friday's closed-door meeting of the panel.

Younis told *Saipan Tribune* that her decision was based on the mandate of the resolution adopted by the Board of Regents early this year when it formed the presidential search group.

According to the resolution, a member of the board in the search committee cannot serve as board chair.

Younis is the Board of Regents vice chair and automatically assumed the acting chairmanship upon the expiration of board chair Janet H. King's term on Sept. 23

"Because I am now the acting chair, I have to step down from [the search panel]," she said.

Younis said her co-chair in the panel, Ed Camacho, will assume the group's leadership.

The seven-member board now has two vacancies, including the seat left vacant by Charles Cepeda, who resigned.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has yet to reappoint King or name her replacement on the board.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the matter is currently under advisement with the governor.

Younis, who has already been involved in the establishment of requirements and preliminary screening of applicants for the next NMC president, is not sure yet if her vote will be counted in the board's selection of the final candidate.

"That remain to be seen…we will discuss that," she said.

Although presidential search committee remains mum on the number of applicants for the NMC position, three names have surfaced. These included business instructor Rik Villegas, business department chair Dr. John Griffin, and accreditation liaison officer Galvin Deleon Guerrero. There are also a few names from Guam who are believed to have submitted their applications to the panel.

Teen gets 25-day sentence for criminal mischief

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman has imposed a 25-day prison term on a male teen who forced himself inside his former girlfriend's bedroom in Dandan by breaking a window.

Bradley DLR Palacios, 18, was sentenced to one year in prison, all suspended except for 25 days, for criminal mischief, with credit for the five days he had already served in jail.

Palacios will begin serving his sentence today, Monday. After 25 days, he will be placed on supervised probation.

He was also directed to perform 50 hours of community service and pay $506 in restitution to the house owners, a $100 fine, $25 court assessment fee, plus probation fee.

During his probation, Palacios is barred from possessing any illegal firearms.

There will be a review hearing on Dec. 15, 2010, to determine if he is complying with his probation conditions.

The Office of the Attorney General had charged Palacios with assault and battery, assault, burglary, criminal trespass, criminal contempt, violating an order of protection, disturbing the peace, and two counts of criminal mischief.

Palacios pleaded guilty to a count of theft as part of a plea bargain. The remaining charges were dismissed.

He was represented by assistant public defender Richard Miller.

A police report states that Palacios damaged the glass window of a house belonging to the victim's parents on March 31, 2010.

Detective Peter A. Aldan said that Palacios smashed the window with a rock, entered the house, chased the victim, and hugged her. The victim struggled. Responding police officers arrested Palacios. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

NMI govt wants cop's vehicle forfeited

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The CNMI government has filed a forfeiture complaint against a 1993 Hilux pickup truck that was allegedly used by a police officer in transporting illegal drugs on Saipan.

Chief Prosecutor Michael L. Ernest asked the Superior Court to declare that the vehicle owned by Police Officer I Florencio Q. Richards be forfeited to the CNMI.

Authorities arrested Richards and Belinda O. Omengkar inside the Hilux parked at the Garapan Fishing Base on July 15, 2010, for trafficking and possession of methamphetamine or "ice."

In addition, Richards is being charged with carrying a firearm while under the influence of alcohol, narcotic, and disabling drugs. At the time, the police officer was off-duty.

Ernest stated in the complaint that Richards and Omengkar were in possession and smoking "ice" inside the Hilux on July 15.

He said Omengkar then directed Richards to drive the car to a drug deal behind San Jose Mart, where the drug transaction was completed.

He said Richards then drove the car to Kannat Tabla, where Omengkar handed Richards money to give it to the driver in another vehicle.

Ernest said Richards was given "ice" that he handed to Omengkar.

Omengkar allegedly received a call from someone who wanted to buy "ice" and told the buyer to meet them at Martha's Store in Garapan. Richards drove the vehicle to the store and the drug transaction took place.

Ernest said the two later proceeded to Fishing Base where they smoked "ice" again.

At this juncture, authorities arrested them.

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PAROLE

From Page 1

workers in the CNMI will become $325, from the current $320.

Biometrics fee will go up to $85, from the current $80.

The new fees will take effect on Nov. 23, 2010.

This comes five months after DHS proposed to raise these fees on June 11, 2010.

"Applications or petitions mailed, postmarked, or otherwise filed on or after Nov. 23, 2010, must include the new fee," DHS' U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services said in its final rule on the fee schedule.

Rabby Syed, president of the United Workers Movement-NMI, said yesterday that the workers' group will still ask DHS to reconsider its advance parole fee increase, and to insert a provision waiving the fee for those needing to exit and re-enter the CNMI for medical emergency and death in the family, among other things.

"Even the current advance parole fee of $305 is high, how much more the $360? A lot of workers here are now working 64 hours instead of 80 hours per pay period, and when they need to go home for emergency reasons or for death in the family, it would be hard for them to afford the $360 on top of other expenses. We hope DHS will still reconsider," Syed told *Saipan Tribune.*

He said the United Workers Movement-NMI plans to send DHS another letter.

Form I-131 is required of foreign workers, students, investors and their dependents prior to leaving the CNMI for travel outside the U.S. and its territories, to be able to return to the Commonwealth under the same immigration status.

For travel to the U.S. mainland and territories like Guam, these same groups of individuals would need to apply for "parole."

In this final rule, DHS increases the fees by a weighted average of 10 percent.

In the Sept. 24 Federal Register, DHS said it adopted the proposed rule with changes, both in response to comments and as a result of new information.

DHS said no modification to the final fees is made as a result of these changes.

However, DHS reduced the fee to $135 for adults and $105 for children, for an application for travel document, Form I-131, when it is filed to request a refugee travel document.

DHS also decided to permit a fee waiver for an application for travel document based on inability to pay when it is based on a request for humanitarian parole.

One commenter on the DHS proposed rule requested a reduction in fees or a fee waiver for the adjustment of status of family members within the two-year transition period of the implementation of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act or Public Law 110-229.

PL 110-229, which was signed in May 2008, placed CNMI immigration under federal control on Nov. 28, 2009.

Fee waivers are not generally available for employment-based immigration benefit requests.

Due to the unique circumstances present in the CNMI, however, DHS published an interim final rule that provided for a separate Form I-129 called the I-129CW, petition for nonimmigrant worker in the CNMI. DHS provided in that rule that USCIS adjudicators may waive the fee for Form I-129CW in certain circumstances if the petitioner is able to show inability to pay.

"That authority will not take effect, however, until DHS has considered comments on the interim rule and published a final rule. Thus, the comment on fee treatment specific to the CNMI has been entered into the docket of that rule, and will be considered in drafting that final rule as well as other rules that will implement the CNRA," DHS said. DHS has yet to issue a final rule.

Besides the I-129CW fee of $325, there is a supplemental CNMI education funding fee of $150 per beneficiary per year. The CNMI education funding fee cannot be waived.

USCIS, one of the component agencies of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, is a fee-based organization with about 90 percent of its budget coming from fees paid by applicants and petitioners to obtain immigration benefits.

The law requires USCIS to conduct fee reviews every two years to determine whether it is recovering its costs to administer the nation's immigration laws, process applications, and provide the infrastructure needed to support those activities. This proposed rule results from a comprehensive fee review begun in 2009.

FARMERS' FORUM

Claus Bier of the Northern Marianas Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Service speaks to farmers and ranchers on Tinian during the Farmer and Landowner Assistance Forum.

See story on Page 7

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BUDGET

From Page 1

resolved since the conference committee's first meeting on Sept. 15.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is also expected to release today a list of essential/critical service positions that will be exempt from a government shutdown if a balanced budget is not passed by Sept. 30.

He told the conference committee working on the $132 million budget bill that at least 383 full-time employees in the Executive Branch will be laid off if the Senate's proposal is passed. That includes cutting work hours by just eight hours instead of 16 per pay period—as the House proposed—and seven unpaid holidays instead of 13.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked yesterday, reiterated that the final listing of exempt employees from the shutdown could be out today.

"While the admin is still hopeful that some sort of legislative action would materialize, we have also taken the necessary steps to prepare for the worst-case scenario," he said.

Demapan said the administration is prepared to implement the impending government shutdown.

"Since Wednesday, the Special [Assistant for] Administration has been holding a series of meetings with the various offices directly under the supervision of the governor's office. In line with this, department and activity heads have been advising their respective staff to take the necessary steps to prepare for a shutdown," he said.

The issuance of the memo identifying which positions will be exempt from the shutdown shall serve as the notice to employees who will not be exempt as well, Demapan added.

Reduction in force

But with or without a government shutdown on Oct. 1, Executive Branch employees will be subjected to a 16-hour cut as part of the Fitial administration's reduction-in-force program started early this year.

Moreover, even if there is no government shutdown, the Fitial administration had already announced earlier that if the 16-hour cuts do not suffice, it will also begin laying off employees starting with limited-term and contract employees.

Judiciary Branch employees will have an eight-hour cut by November, while the Legislature has so far not volunteered work hour cuts regardless of the budget bill outcome.

Differences resolved, unresolved

Since their first meeting on Sept. 15, the six-member conference committee has yet to agree on the work hour cuts, and at least four of the major differences have not even been discussed.

Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan), chair of the conference committee, enumerated on Friday these 10 major differences.

He said so far, only three major issues have been agreed on:

1. Funding for the Public School System, over $31.140 million, to meet the Maintenance-of-Effort agreement between the CNMI governor and the U.S. Department of Education;

2. Funding for Northern Marianas College, over $4.464 million, also to meet the MOE; and

3. Reinstatement of the over $110,000 funding for the Commonwealth Zoning Board.

He said the work hour cuts are still a contentious issue. Every time this is brought up in the conference committee meetings, they end up not agreeing on anything.

On Friday, for example, Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) made a motion to adopt the Senate's proposal for an eight-hour work cut and seven unpaid holidays but the vote was evenly split, 3-3. Three senators voted "yes," while three House members voted "no."

Basa said the conferees have yet to agree on the appropriation for government utilities payment: The Senate proposed some $9 million, while the House pared this down to over $6 million.

The conferees also have yet to make a final decision on each of the lawmakers' annual discretionary fund, currently at over $86,000, despite an earlier preliminary agreement of capping it at $86,000. The House wants it increased to $130,000, while the Senate wants to cap it at $86,000.

Basa said the conference committee also has yet to agree on the Legislature's leadership account, the Judiciary budget, and the Rota and Tinian appropriations.

Besides Basa, the other House conferees are Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan) and Rep. Eli Cabrera.

Joining Torres as Senate conferees are Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) and Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota).

Cabrera, in an interview, said he is reintroducing his bill to increase annual license fees in today's House session.

Hofschneider said the Senate will be holding a session every day this week to act on House-passed revenue-generating bills.

Senate conferees said their version of Cabrera's original bill will generate over $22 million in additional revenues, half of which could already cover the shortfall between the House and Senate differences in work hour cuts.

'Senate proposal is most viable'

House minority leader Rep. Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan), author of the legislative initiative that requires timely passage of a balanced budget every fiscal year, said Fitial has up to 20 days to sign a budget bill that passes the Legislature.

"Each day that we fail [to] pass a budget could translate to a day that government employees will not be paid," he said in a letter Friday to House Speaker Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan).

Benavente told Tenorio that the adopting the Senate's budget proposal "is the most viable option under the circumstances."

The House speaker said it is unlikely that the House and Senate will pass a budget by Sept. 30.

However, the conference committee is giving it another try; they plan to meet again today.

Without a balanced budget passed before the start of the new fiscal year, the government will be forced to shut down, as the Constitution requires.

When the government shuts down, only essential or critical service positions will continue working and get paid. The rest won't be required to work and won't get paid until a balanced budget is passed.

POWER

From Page 1

The commission made the decision during Friday night's hearing where it ruled that the $0.24446 per kilowatt-hour rate would remain from October through March 2011.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. had wanted to raise this to $0.25338 per kWh.

"The current levelized energy adjustment clause [LEAC] rate of $0.24446 per kWh shall remain in place during the period Oct. 1, 2010 through March 31, 2011. The commission finds that this rate is just, reasonable, and necessary," board members said in the rule it adopted Friday.

The commission also cited "inconsistencies" in the proposals submitted by CUC and Georgetown Consulting, the commission's own consultant.

Saipan Tribune learned that CUC and Georgetown had initially informed the commission about its intention to recommend a slight reduction in the power rate, for which a public notice was published on Sept. 2. This notice proposed a LEAC rate of $0.24100 cents per kWh—a slight reduction on the current rate of $0.24446 per kWh.

Eight days after the public notice, however, the joint CUC-Georgetown report recommended a significantly higher rate of $0.25338 cents per kWh. The commission said this caused unnecessary public confusion and concern, it added.

CPUC conducted a public hearing on the proposed power rate hike on Sept. 14, during which three individuals were in attendance as members of the public: Rep. Stanley Torres, Sen. Juan M. Ayuyu, and ratepayer Juan Sablan, who all testified in opposition to the increase.

"Given the inconsistent recommendations by CUC and Georgetown regarding the proposed rate, public opposition, and the dire state of the Commonwealth economy, the commissioners directed CUC and Georgetown to carefully review their projections and analysis to determine whether a lower rate could be prudently recommended," the commission said.

In response to the commission's directive, both CUC and Georgetown revised their proposal on Sept. 22, asking the commission to keep the current rate cycle for the next six months.

The commission also disclosed that the CUC-Georgetown LEAC report recommended renewable energy and diversification of power production and fuel suppliers.

Other decisions

In that same meeting, the commission ordered CUC to promptly file a finalized KEMA Consulting report regarding CUC technical losses. After reviewing the report, CPUC said it will invite recommendations on appropriate regulatory course of action to monitor CUC's efforts to reduce these losses.

CUC was also ordered to file a detailed monthly analysis of its water and wastewater division's fiscal year 2010 electric consumption and finalize a renewable energy assessment performed by the Department of the Interior and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

The commission also ordered CUC to prepare and file a documented petition for the next LEAC rate covering April 1, 2011 through Sept. 30, 2011, and Georgetown shall review and comment on this filing.

13 fishermen honored on their death anniversary

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Families and friends of the 13 local fishermen who lost their lives at sea commemorated their death anniversary on Sept. 23 with a Mass followed by a gathering near the 13 Fishermen Memorial Monument along Beach Road.

The 13 fishermen whose names are inscribed on the monument are Joseph T. Lisua, Martin L. Saures, Pedro L. Mettao, Joseph R. Kaipant, Benusto M. Lisua, Silvestre R. Selepeo, Juan Benusto R. Olopai, Isidro R. Romolor, Jovencio C. Falguera, Joaquin L. Moteisou, Jose T. Igisaiar, Enrique L. Moteisou, and Guillermo Saures.

Bobbie L. Sablan said family members and friends of the 13 fishermen gather every year by the monument to honor their departed loved ones.

"Instead of a rosary, we hold a Mass because it is very important for us to mark this occasion," said Sablan, who had brothers and a brother in law among the 13 fishermen.

Joseph Mendiola, a classmate and friend of Guillermo Saures, said the group was out fishing and was headed to the Northern Islands on the day they disappeared at sea.

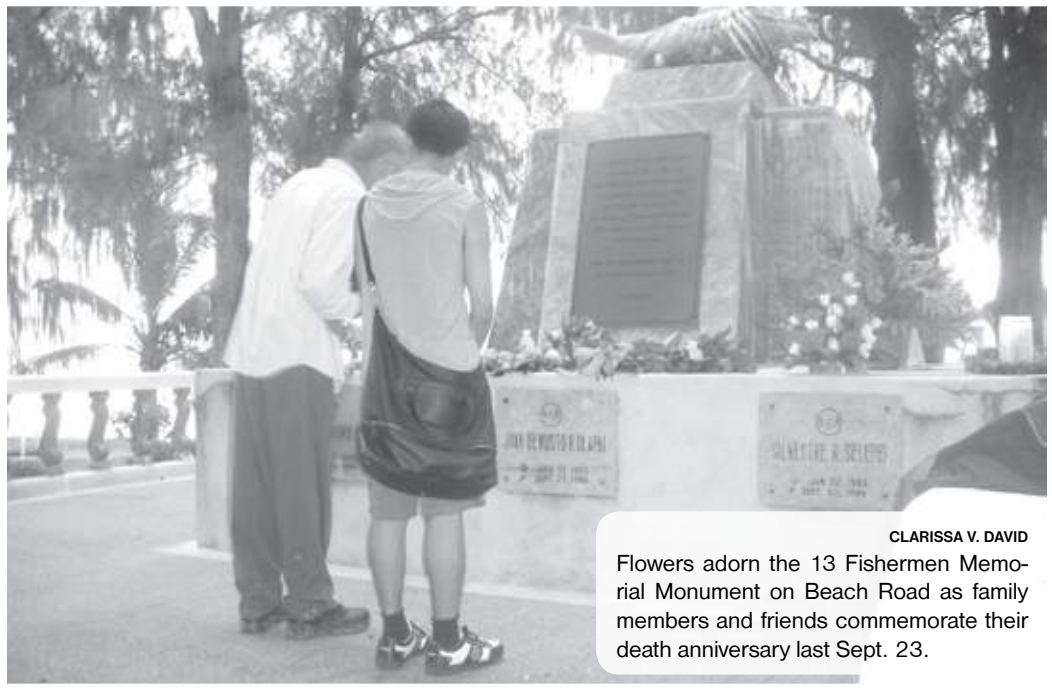
"Only the boat was found but not the bodies," Mendiola told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that there was a tropical storm at the time the fishermen launched M/V *Olwol* to sea.

The names of two other fishermen, Emilio T. Lisua and Antonio S. Fitial, were included on the monument as they had passed away on the same day.

As a cyclist, Mendiola would stop by the monument to pay respect to the fishermen who passed away on Sept. 23, 1986.

"Up to this day, it's still very touching for me because I knew them," he said.

According to Mendiola, the late Rep. Jesus P. Mafnas of Precinct 3 made possible the construction of the monument.



CLARISSA V. DAVID
Flowers adorn the 13 Fishermen Memorial Monument on Beach Road as family members and friends commemorate their death anniversary last Sept. 23.

Notorious burglar gets 1 year in jail

A notorious burglar who recently stole a laptop computer was admonished to change his criminal career and sentenced to a one-year prison term.

"You're already 24 years old. Change your criminal career," Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman told Martin Tiamson Castro Jr.

Castro was actually sentenced to five years in prison but it was suspended except for one year—to be served without parole.

Due to Castro's criminal history, Wiseman was reluctant to accept the plea agreement but was convinced by assistant attorney general Brian Gallagher and assistant public defender Richard Miller, counsel for Castro, that the defendant immediately accepted responsibility for his actions and returned the stolen property to its owner.

"This case is only two months old and that it is in the interests of justice to have a speedy solution. Other mitigating factors were presented and the court accepted the plea agreement, after considering the facts of this case, the recommendations of counsel, including the parties' mitigating factor," Wiseman said.

After completing the jail term, Castro will be placed on supervised probation. He was required to perform 100 hours of community service and pay $200 in fine and court assessment fee.

Castro pleaded guilty to theft as part of a plea bargain. He admitted stealing a laptop owned by Carol S. Williams.

In September 2009, police also arrested Castro for allegedly trying to break into one of the classrooms of San Antonio Elementary School. A digital camera was found in his possession.

A security guard saw Castro removing the metal louvers from one classroom and attempting to enter the room. The guard shouted at Castro, prompting the suspect to run away.

A police officer later arrested Castro. It is not clear whether this case is pending in court. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Santos seeks food stamp, federal aid programs for govt workers

Rep. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota) is requesting federal assistance programs like food stamp be made available to government employees that will be affected by a government shutdown should a balanced budget is not passed before Oct. 1.

A conference committee with three members each from the House of Representatives and Senate are still unable to agree on most of their differences in the FY 2011 budget bill.

Santos

Santos wrote separate letters on Friday to the federal-funded Nutrition Assistance Program which locally administers the food stamp program, the Medicaid office, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, and the Women, Infant and Children Program.

"Absent a budget, beginning Oct. 1, 2010, many of our government employees may not be able to report back to work. Many, if not all, of these employees have rationed and budgeted their incomes based on their previous earnings. As a result, they may require supplemental assistance to balance some of their families' needs…" Santos said in a letter to NAP administrator Eleanor S. Cruz and other government officials.

Santos, a freshman lawmaker, said in light of an impending shutdown if no budget is timely passed, peoples' needs for food, utility and medical assistance should be addressed. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

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235-2030

New NMC student leaders elected

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Marianas College students have selected Antonio V. Tiples as new president of the Associated Students of NMC, along with three other newly elected members.

Hundreds of students took to the polls Wednesday last week to vote for four key posts: president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary.

Tiples, a liberal arts major student, was the only candidate for president but voters were allowed to make write-in nominees for all vacant posts.

The lone candidate for vice president, Maria B. Calilong, a liberal arts major, also made it to the new set of officers.

Ian Carr, who is taking up criminal justice, and nursing student Ki Young Kim were elected secretary and treasurer respectively.

The investiture ceremony for the new officers is slated today on campus.

"We are proud of the newly-elected officers and congratulate them on their election," said interim president Lorraine T. Cabrera, adding that she looks forward to working with them as they continue to advance the college's mission.

Tiples vows to do his best to serve the students.

"Though helping lead a student body of college students would be a new challenge, I look forward to the opportunity to learn and experience all the obstacles to come," he said.

In prior years, officers of ASNMC have actively participated in the planning of major college events, including Charter Day, NMC's largest annual event. They have also organized forums that include debates among political candidates seeking public office.

ASNMC officers are also members of the college's governance structure. It also has representatives to the Board of Regents, College Council, the Planning, Program Review, and Outcomes Assessment Committee, the Budget and Finance Committee, the Recruitment Team, Graduation Committee, and other groups.

Customs officer, DFW staff plead not guilty to charges of hunting fruit bats

A Rota Customs Officer and a staff of the Rota Division of Fish and Wildlife who were indicted in federal court with a third suspect on charges of poaching on a breeding colony of threatened Mariana fruit bats have entered not guilty pleas.

Rota Customs Officer 3 Albert Taitano and Division of Fish of Wildlife staff David Santos appeared with court-appointed counsels Bruce Berline and Michael Dotts during their arraignment on Friday.

Taitano and Santos pleaded not guilty to an indictment that charged them with taking threatened species in violation of the Endangered Species Act.

On Thursday, the third suspect, Adrian Mendiola, a retired police officer, appeared with counsel Ramon Quichocho. He pleaded not guilty.

Their jury trial is scheduled to begin on Nov. 15, 2010. The three were released on their personal recognizance, with some conditions.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric O'Malley is prosecuting the case. U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge Philip Pro presided at the arraignment.

According to the U.S. government, the alleged violations relate to poaching incidents in 2008 when two of the few remaining breeding colonies of the Mariana fruit bat were decimated by hunters using 12-gauge and .410 shotguns.

U.S. Attorney for Guam and NMI Alicia A.G. Limtiaco stated that the Mariana fruit bat or *fanihi* is an important species not just to the islands' ecology but to the local island culture. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Forum teaches farmers, ranchers of available assistance

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas Resource Conservation and Development Council recently conducted the Farmer and Landowner Assistance Forum on the islands of Saipan and Tinian.

Mark Defley, Marianas Resource Conservation and Development Coordinator, said the forum saw the participation of 22 farmers, non-farmers, and ranchers on both islands.

Aside from Defley, forum presenters included Claus Bier from the Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research, Extension and Education Service, Tom Camacho from Farm Services Agency in Guam, and James Eller from the Natural Resources Conservation Service on Saipan.

Defley said the presenters discussed their programs that offer financial and technical assistance as well as provided brochures and pamphlets.

"This is the first time such an interagency forum has been conducted. I am hoping that the opportunity will be available next year as well, and that we can expand it to include other agency programs," Defley told *Saipan Tribune.*

According to Defley, the forum is very important especially for farmers, ranchers and landowners as "they do not realize the tremendous array of programs available to help them improve their operations, increase profits, and address challenges they face on the land."

"These assistance programs can be critical for those who wish to maintain profitability in the face of increasing development pressures," he added.

The Farm and Landowner Assistance Forum was made possible by a grant from the Farm Services Agency.

Defley said they will also conduct the forum on Rota this Thursday, Sept. 30, at its NMC campus from 11am to 1pm. He urged all farmers, ranchers, and landowners to contact their office so they can participate in programs that serve them.

"We are here to help you make your land-based business more profitable and sustainable," said Defley.

For information, contact Defley at (671) 472-7447.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMIT students Frank Kaneshi and Brilliant Magofna are supervised by Brian Kendall during the renovation of the MHS counseling office this past weekend.

MHS and NMTI team up to redo counseling office

Marianas High School principal Craig Garrison recently partnered with the Northern Marianas Trade Institute to assist the school in the renovation of the school's counseling office—one of the many changes at MHS under the leadership of the new principal.

The schools counseling office previously had limited space for students to access resources and their counselors.

With the increase in enrollment from last year, Garrison stated there was a need for expanding the counseling office into a more student-centered area to accommodate the students. The redesign has led to an increase of 600 square feet for a total of 1,800 square feet.

The design also provides for each counseling office to have large windows installed so that students can virtually see when their counselor is in. The counselors can also observe the main lobby as students continue to use the services.

The area will also have 15 new wall mounted touch screen computers and print stations that will provide for greater student access to information on college and vocational education after high school.

"The school will continue to work with the NMTI" for many of its projects, said Garrison. "We feel that the opportunity to provide hands on education to the students at NMIT is a worthy endeavor and an asset to the community."

Anyone interested in partnering with the NMIT for similar projects are encouraged to contact Brian Kendall at 287-2364 with questions or proposals. ***(PR)***

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Bud Conrad, Casey Research's Chief Economist, will keynote this year's 10th Pacific Region Investment Conference. With his experience as a futures investor for 25 years, Bud is all set to fire up this year's conference and share valuable insights on why we should not take for granted the apparent financial calm as he talks about "**The Eye of the Storm**," and where to make your investments. Bud graduated with an MBA in Harvard and an Electrical Engineering degree at Yale University. He is also a professor of graduate courses in investing at Golden Gate University. Bud's new book, "***Profiting from the World's Economic Crisis***," has been recently published by John Wiley and has already gone to second printing in the first month.

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Retirees woo students to back Fund initiatives

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Retirees Association is wooing Northern Marianas College students to support two legislative initiatives in this year's ballot, saying the measures are critical to saving the NMI Retirement Fund from collapse.

In a recent forum conducted at the Current Issues class of instructor Sam McPhetres, the group's chairman, Juan Sablan, explained their position on legislative initiatives 16-13 and 17-01.

House Legislative Initiative 16-13 prohibits any increase in retirement benefits until all government obligations to the NMI Retirement Fund have been satisfied or until the Fund is fully funded.

"Further, it provides that no law shall be enacted by the Legislature that will create an unfunded liability to the system," said Sablan, adding that the HLI 16-13 will safeguard the Fund from further deterioration.

McPhetres

House Legislative Initiative 17-1, on the other hand, wants to add a new Section 10 to Article X of the CNMI Constitution to authorize the Commonwealth to issue pension obligation bonds to pay its debt to the Retirement Fund.

Sablan said the general public, most especially youth voters, need to make a decision to protect the financial solvency of the Fund.

However, even if HLI 17-01 is approved by voters, its effect will not be immediate, Sablan believes that the process to float the pension obligation bonds is going to take awhile.

"The POB is not going to be issued tomorrow. It requires lots of process before it becomes a reality," he said.

The Superior Court earlier determined that the CNMI government owes the Fund over $231 million in unpaid contributions and the amount is growing. The pension obligation bond is being touted as a means to raise the money to pay for this obligation.

"You students have to decide what's best for the Commonwealth. Some of you may be saying the POB are going to be your obligations. It is not your obligation, it is the government's obligation to pay the bonds," he said.

By providing a safe funding level to the Retirement Fund, Sablan said the life of the Fund will be extended and will continue providing pensions to retirees and future retirees.

Present and future retirees comprise over 6,000 members who all depend on the Fund.

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Flashback
A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Sept. 27, 2000

EPA: Ship back PCB-contaminated soil to US
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 has issued an administrative order to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to allow federal environment officials ship back to the U.S. mainland the concentrated polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) that will be collected in Cemetery No. 2 in Tanapag village. Federal law prohibits the shipment of PCB from territories which are not covered by the U.S. Customs. EPA Region 9 Manager Norman Lovelace said the enforcement action sent a week ago is expected to help clear legal obstacles and pave the way for the shipment of the highly toxic chemical and its proper disposal in a U.S. mainland facility.

PCB level in Tanapag water, food almost nil
Food and water in Tanapag village were found safe from polychlorinated biphenyl contamination, except the land crabs, according to preliminary results of the laboratory testing conducted in the U.S. mainland. Food items such as taro, yam, clams, chicken eggs and fish did not yield any PCB level during the testing. However, the eight land crabs taken within the area of the cemetery showed detectable PCB limits, said Norman Lovelace, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 manager. Likewise, laboratory results of 18 samples of groundwater taken from Tanapag and the Lower Base yielded "non-detect" PCB levels. The preliminary results issued last month negated earlier findings that PCB concentration in groundwater in Tanapag is 18 times the federal drinking standard. Only samples of taro and yam were tested in Guam laboratory.

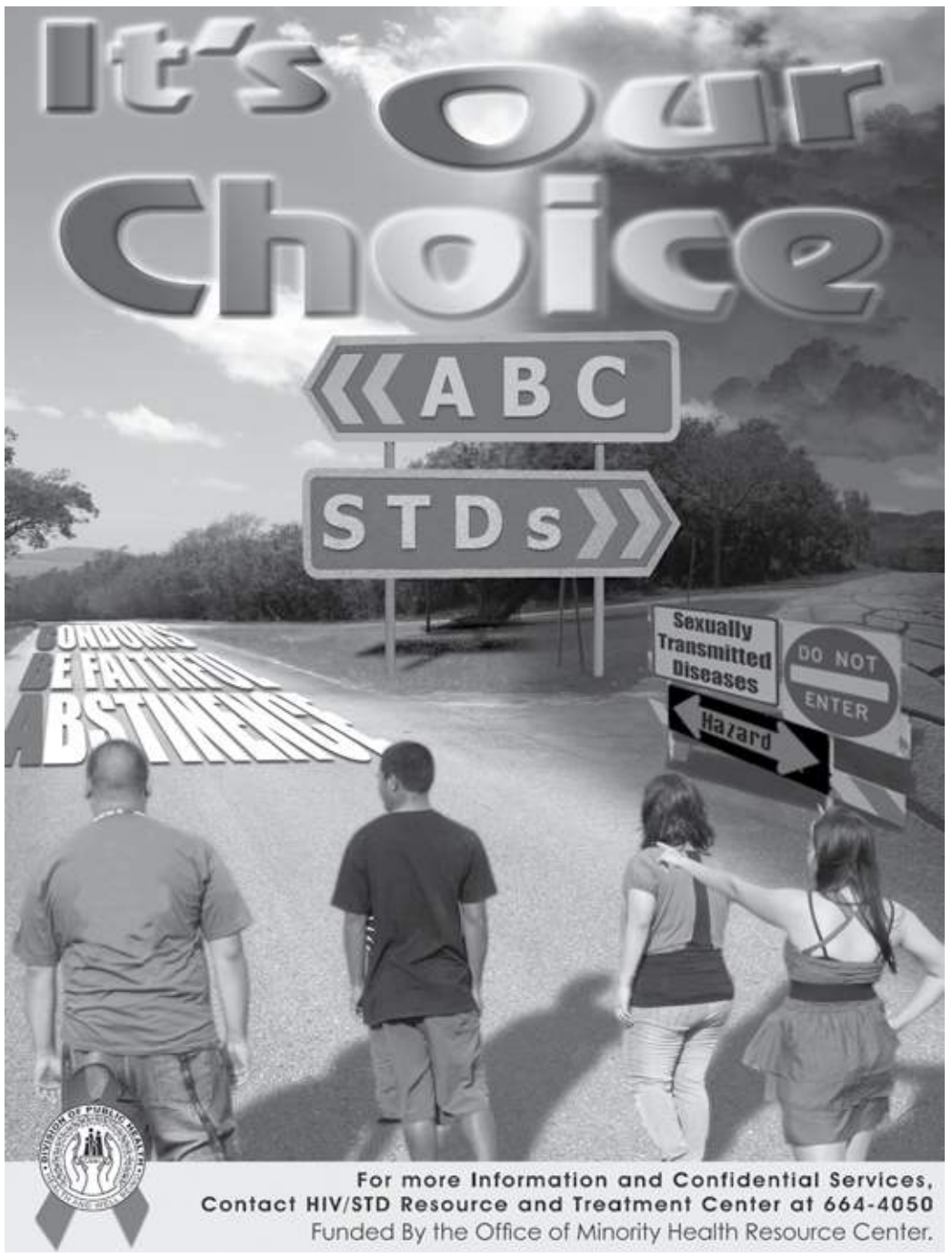
Sept. 27, 2001

Mandatory pre-natal HIV screening sought
The House Committee on Health and Welfare has recommended the passage of a bill that would make it mandatory for the Commonwealth Health Center to give free counseling and screening to pregnant women to prevent the transmission of the HIV virus from mother to child. At the same time, the committee pushed for a provision in the measure that would no longer require parental consent for minors who would seek testing and counseling for sexually transmitted diseases. According to committee chair Rep. Malua T. Peter, the passage of House Bill 12-259 becomes even more urgent with the rise in the number of HIV cases in the CNMI and the shift of its transmission that now puts the entire community at risk of acquiring the terrible disease.

PSS: Travel vouchers not missing
The Public School System yesterday produced records indicating that it has managed to recoup large portions of its travel advances, significantly reducing an outstanding travel balance that has reached close to $500,000 over the last ten years. Education officials said it has been steadfast in enforcing stricter collection policies to finally rid the system of the long-standing accumulated balance, which incumbent PSS officials inherited from past administrations. Dispelling earlier reports that thousands of dollars worth of travel vouchers are missing from PSS, Acting Education Commissioner Louise Concepcion explained that in the past, individuals who traveled under PSS' tab just failed to turn over the necessary documents to the fiscal office, where it is accounted for.

Sept. 27, 2002

Manglona endorses Disability Employment Awareness Month
Acting Gov. Paul A. Manglona yesterday declared October as Disability Employment Awareness Month through a proclamation he signed in front of physically-challenged individuals and their advocates. This, as Manglona urged the community to participate in the month-long observation, as well as the scheduled activities that would enhance the lives of many individuals with disabilities in the CNMI. "I urged all CNMI residents to acknowledge the value and contributions of individuals with disabilities to society. I commend employers who have hired people with disabilities and encourage them to hire more qualified people with disabilities," the acting governor said.



Cancer Survivor Support Meeting

All cancer survivors are invited to attend the survivor support meeting on

Wednesday, September 29, 2010 at the Hyatt Chamolinian Room starting at 5:30pm.

This month's survivor support meeting will feature a presentation titled "Nutrition and the Cancer Survivor," by Ms. Hee Jae Lee, a registered dietitian who practices in the CNMI. Ms. Lee will be presenting nutrition guidelines from the American Institute for Cancer Research for cancer prevention and survivorship, and discuss ways to apply those recommendations in the islands using fresh and locally available foods. Her presentation will be followed by a survivors-only discussion.

For more information or to RSVP, contact the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or the Comprehensive Cancer Control Program at 236-8728, or email cca@ccamarianas.org .

This ad is brought to you by the Department of Public Health Comprehensive Cancer Control Program with 100% funding from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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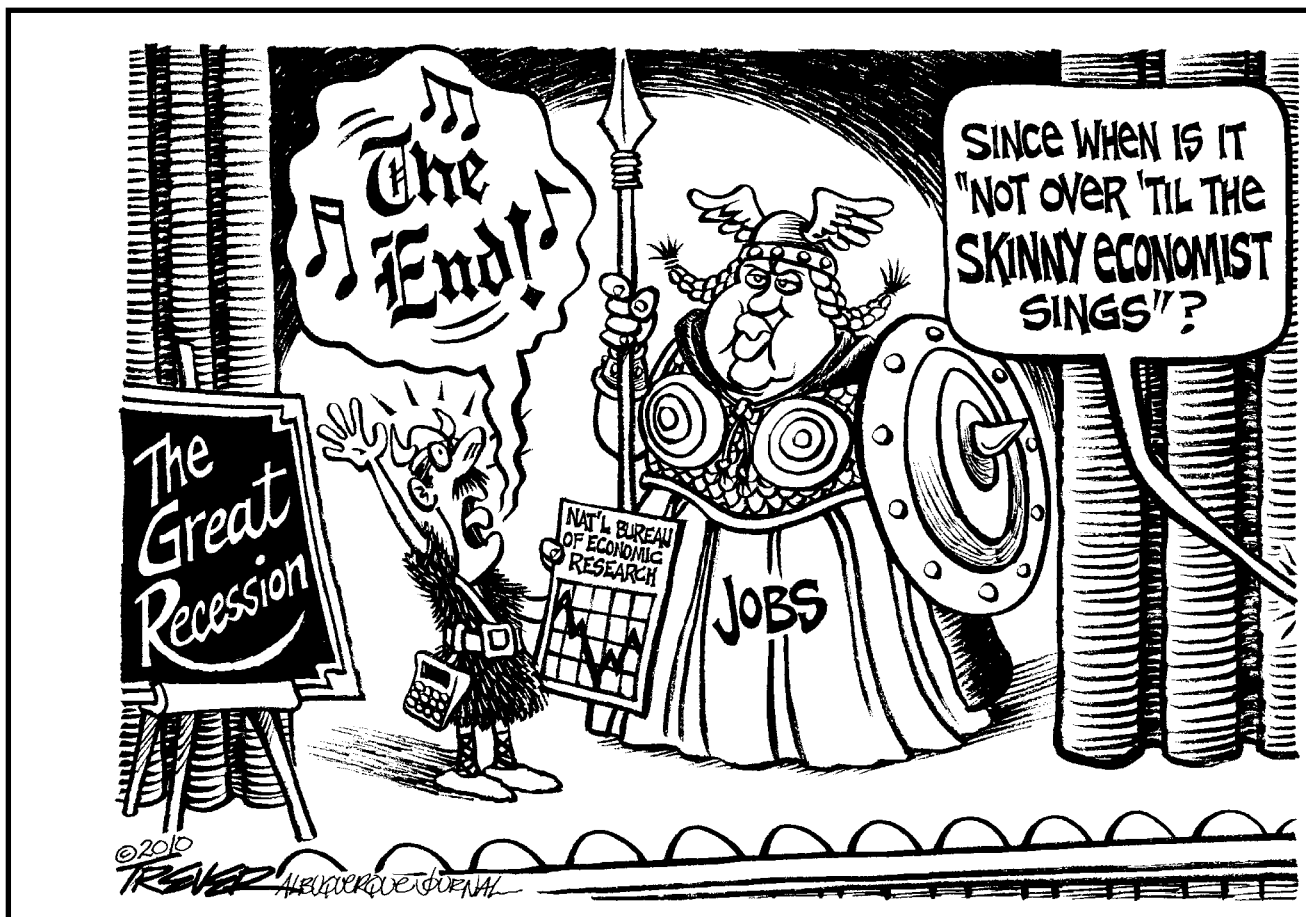
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State of the obvious

By JIM RAYPHAND
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jim Rayphand is executive director of the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc.

Sometimes the most obvious things elude us—hiding in plain sight, if you will—such that we trudge back and forth along the same beaten path aimlessly, hoping to arrive in a different place. Instead of learning from the mistakes of our past, we repeat them over and over again, then act surprised when we get the same results over and over again. Not my words, but "We cannot solve the problems of today by applying the same kind of thinking we did when we created them." Yet these redundant, archaic manners of thinking remain guarded behind shields of positional authority, backroom deals and divisive strategizing that leave even the boldest of bold individuals second-guessing themselves.

More particularly, we perpetuate a kind of obligatory culture of fear in the lower ranks of our public servants at the hands of a small group of self-important, fear-mongers who in one fashion or another find themselves in positions of authority (with power trips in tow) and dangle people's jobs in front of them like a bargaining chip. What's worse is we simply tolerate them with actual policies, procedures, and general practice that allow for arbitrary and capricious terminations from service with no access to 14th Amendment rights of due process. We have government entities (the people's government) pawning one- to two-year employment contracts with 90-day notice provisions for non-renewal without cause…that's without cause…without!? How that translates in real life is you better suck up to the boss because if you make him mad one day, you'll be gone the next or at least in the next 90 days, despite actual job performance. Furthermore, it provides a way for supervisors and the likes to get rid of people for prejudicial reasons without ever having to answer for it and, yes, it also allows them to fill jobs with unqualified friends and such who may or may not be capable of doing the actual work, but who will certainly never rock their boat. This, essentially, is a deadly weapon and an easy out for incompetent administrators, but what about the employees? What about the public service?

Similarly, with each new administration comes the barrage of requests for compulsory, "courtesy resignations"—something like mandatory volunteerism—and the reason for it (?): "That's the standard way…it's the way it's always been done." Never mind any ongoing initiatives, actual job performance or coordinated transition plans. That doesn't matter. What matters is putting people in place who are more likely to go with the flow. Not the flow of progress mind you, but the senseless flow of political gamesmanship wherein survival depends primarily on a person's ability to say yes when told to speak and to be silent until otherwise instructed. So we continually, start then stop then start again. All the while the common man, you know, the regular worker, the one without the fancy necktie and cushy, leather seat, has to keep wondering whether or not he's jumping through the right hoops. No wonder we regress. People are tired and they're scared to lose their jobs at the whim of an over-bloated ego. The only people who should ever be afraid of losing their jobs are those people who don't do their jobs. Of course, downsizing, particularly in the current economic landscape, is another threat and a legitimate fear, but productivity and job performance should still dictate who goes and who stays.

One can't help but wonder how much better off we'd be if more

See STATE on Page 14

Needed: Fresh lemons to squeeze

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

Picture all of us in a large boat drifting aimlessly in the ocean. Suddenly someone notices a small leak, with water slowly coming in. He turns to all of us and says: "Hey, everybody, have you noticed the leak in the boat?"

The person next to him replies, "Yes, but the hole is small and the water is only very little." So everyone goes back to his personal matter and forgets the hole.

Later another person stands up and says, "Guess what? The leak is getting bigger and I think the water is higher. Shouldn't we do something about it?" Another responds, "Nah, the water is only a few inches deep. It will stop shortly." Soon another stands up: "Hey let's form a committee and discuss this leak. If we don't, we may have a bigger problem later." "Okay, good idea. Let's see, do we have a budget? How long will it take to form a committee and who should be on it?"

By now the water is knee deep and the boat is getting a bit unstable with all the water in it. No one dares to move for fear of rocking the boat. We slowly turn to a group of men huddled in a corner talking amongst themselves. They look familiar. Aren't these the men we elected several months ago to steer us out of this very problem?

As we glance at this group, we notice that none of them is excited about the leak, but instead each of them is calmly discussing the problem within his little clique. Meanwhile the water is rising higher and higher. Will anyone act to bail out the water and save us and the boat?

Now picture you and me in a small boat. You and I are sitting at opposite ends of the boat. You glare at me as I keep punching a hole in my end of the boat. "Hey, Tony, what are you doing punching a hole in the boat? Don't you know that water will come in and we will sink?"

I reply, "Don't worry. The hole is only on my end of the boat, not yours!"

You decide what these two little stories suggest. To me they suggest that each of us must participate in activities that affect us all, or we will all suffer the consequences. Basically we are in the same boat. What affects you also affects all of us.

Consider this: A man is holding a lemon in his hand trying to squeeze every last drop from it. However, after a while, no matter how hard he squeezes, there is no more juice to come out. What should he do? Keep squeezing or get another lemon?

It appears that our administration and legislators think that the lemon has endless juice. Instead they need fresh lemons to squeeze. The day is fast approaching when our lemon (the CNMI government) will have no more juice. No matter how hard they squeeze there just will not be any more juice.

In previous articles I have stated that the Legislature and administration must do more to help us. But in reality all of us must pitch in and do our share. We cannot keep asking for help if we refuse to also get our hands blistered.

All of must start looking for new lemons to squeeze. But where are they and how can we get them? Let's examine several possible places. The following suggestions hopefully will stimulate us also to think of better ways and even challenge what I present here. I am trying to make us think outside of the box. We must turn our heads to the future and stop whining for the past. It is gone. Only the future is ahead. There is no return route.

Two things we must first do if we are to improve. One is to WANT to change. Unless we truly feel the need to think and act differently, we will never change. The second is to be willing to take risks. As I mentioned above, the water coming into the boat is drowning us unless we take action now to stop its flow.

We must overcome the overwhelming fear that has gripped our islands and accept the risks needed to create change. It is extremely difficult to save a drowning person who doesn't help in saving himself.

I strongly recommend listening to the CD or reading the book by Spencer Johnston, *Who Moved My Cheese.* It will make us reflect on what has happened to us and will continue to happen unless we change. Our cheese has been moved and we must find new cheese. Change is the only inevitable thing, and unless we change with change, we will become extinct.

From readings of history, I have concluded that most nations are destroyed, not by external forces but by internal forces. The people simply stop caring and become lazy, selfish and soft. As a result, outside forces find it easy to overtake the nation. Start with your reading of the Roman Empire and learn what happened to the greatest nation of its time. The Empire simply imploded. Are we any better?

Too many of us get a government job and then float, hoping that the government will feed and clothe us until we retire. But that lemon has been squeezed hard. We need to find other lemons.

If we want more money we must learn how money is made. We must better understand the flow of money. We must also understand economics and some of its basic principals. With this increased knowledge we will discover opportunities surrounding us. Simply put, we must become interested in what is happening around us concerning money and financing.

In previous articles I have suggested taking back all the small shops that we have given to non-indigenous residents. Another recent example of letting others do our work is the advent of small produce stalls along the highways and the pickup trucks visiting our neighborhoods selling local produce and fruit. How many of them are locally owned? Almost none! Why have we let outsiders take this business opportunity away from us? Aren't we also farmers?

See NEEDED on Page 11

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Stillness lingers in my soul

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

"It was my destiny to join in a great experience," is the great opening line to Hermann Hesse's *The Journey to the East.* This is not a travel book to India and/or China, though the journey itself would be just as equally strange, if not unsettling to the West-originating spirit. The story is about a League whose members are motivated by a collective vision long lost in our narrator and was in the process of trying to retrieve it.

Not surprisingly, a bevy of management books evolved later out of the inspiration of the main character Leo, on servant stewardship, though not the *muchacho* variety with which we've crucified Judge Ken Govendo. Leo's style is more of the enabling and facilitating kind that we do not see exhibited in our gung-ho in-charge macho "I lead, you follow" style of leadership.

Our interest in *The Journey* is the fact that I used to belong to "the Order" (not the racist one in Montana), a League-like group that began with the Ecumenical Institute of Chicago, developed a social program as the Institute of Cultural Affairs (whose *Blue Shirts* once worked with Amata Kabua, Tony Debrum and members of the Marshall Islands' *Nitijela*), and constituted ourselves as the Order: Ecumenical, an experiment in intentional community within the context of contemporary *saeculum saecula seaculurum.* All right, don't quit. I just threw in those pretentious three Latin words (I'm a Protestant so they are foreign to me, too) to see if I still have your attention. We were about holy secularity! The point is, we took *glocal* (global context, local operation) as our organizational mode and pretty much appropriated every time zone, worldwide and history-long, as our environment to reformulate comprehensive human services while plumbing the depth of human consciousness. Are you still with me?

Anyway, we had enough sense when the organization's center would not hold, to dissipate in 1988 to "a thousand lights" (my family disengaged in '84) and went about our individual business in diaspora without benefit of collective wisdom and support of Centrum, nexus, way stations/ashrams/religious houses of a spirit empire. However, thanks to the Internet, we managed to be tenuously connected.

More than 20 years later, founders and members are dying off, prompting a North Carolina colleague to exclaim: (my paraphrase) *"May we stop dying for awhile already!"* That comes strange from a group known for its passion for living and graciousness in dying. But like every one else, time comes when the question of legacy is raised. *What hath God wrought?* is the traditional language in King James' milieu. Our response is unequivocally in the realm of pedagogy. We chose to live in another world in the midst of this world, where the quality of the moment rather than its longevity defines its eternity. We are, as it were, in this world but not of this world! We beckon others to join! It is free. It is the only way to be.

This comes home personally because my mother just turned 90 today (Sunday in Honolulu, though already Monday on Saipan) and she is sleeping longer and more often now than when she was still sprite five years ago when my Dad, nine years her senior, completed his journey at 94. They supported "the Order" with three of their five children as members. She has made peace with the inevitable and is biding her pace to see when it is time to let go into the abyss.

I am not using that language just for poetry. One of our members literally did that recently. Fred Lanphear, a genius in intentional community, established a communal housing outside of Seattle (http://songaia.com/) after serving in various capacities around the world with "the Order." He was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (commonly known Lou Gehrig's disease), and this October, was to raise some research funds in a walkathon while in his wheelchair. He didn't make it. This month, when he knew terminus was in sight, wrote his last blog, gathered members of kin and kindred, did his exercise in bed one last time, still counting to make sure the nurses did not skip a beat, and then went to sleep, and literally "gave up the ghost," if I may be allowed that old metaphor. Response among the living to the completion of such a life can fall into grief, but momentarily; it is mostly a silent but nevertheless profound celebration of being, unique and unrepeatable, none of its like was ever nor will ever be again.

Stillness lingers in my soul in our title was coined by one of our lady Presbyter members who has since retired. My Tar Heel colleague's lament is a human cry when hearing the clanging of Mephistopheles' spade gets louder. My email address has 2031, the year of my life covenant's termination. Dec. 15, to be exact, and anything after that is icing on the cake. Termination before that is merciful *c'est la vie!* The stillness issues from the gracious acceptance of life and death, first, by that which transcends, is immanent, and transparent of, our existence, that resounded with the big YES from the original blessing to our acquired enfeebled assent. Then we freely map out the details of the stillness in our own individual journeys, from which "cometh peace that passeth all understanding." Lost you again? That's what Leo said!

It is Mother's Day at Aala Park in Honolulu today, and in her own way, Lucrecia has stillness in her soul!

Botasion Pot Areglu

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

DelRosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

I asuntun publiku pot eleksion Congresson America na sakan gaige gi dos attikulu: 1). Kau u makontinua i presente na areglu siha 'nai mas bula dibin iya Amerca lau ti inaregla ekonomiaña. 2). U mabira tatte i areglu gi primet prinsipiu siha 'nai mau'udai ma-establese iya America dos sientus (200) años antes.

Gai tineug' i asuntu sa' mientras miyon pot miyon na salape maseñala para ayudon fiñkas yan chochu, sumen chafleg este na propositu. Mientras mas kahulu i dibi, taya' areglu 'sino mapan taimanu ma-establesen mas bisnis yan chochu gi estados siha. Mas piligru kareran iya America sa' mampous bula dibiña ginen hiyoñg tat komo China yan otru siha man-figu' na ekonomian nasion.

I eleksion entalu pattida umanog klaru na o'sun i publiku ni mantañgan membron Congresso giya Washington 'nai mapetsige prinipone siha ni kinekentra nu i tautau gi memegaiña na estados. I programan ayudu para i ekonomia, dispues de mafufuye $800 mas miyon pesos ennau ha' i 55 na chochu' manma-establese.

Mas ke 15 miyon na tautuat man-tai chechu' na tiempu. I sustansian dibati siempre u anog gi uttimu besis gi haye i publiku ha elihe ni siña man-ekuñgog dichu sentimenton tautau siha gi lugat niha. Makat na galaide ma-esgaihon sa' matiteg i layag ya duru sumi' i sasyan gi halom un' didog na chubasku.

■■■

Kau un' hahasso ha' yu'

Umasuda' dos faye gi fina' sagan chumochu (restaurant). I madidibi kahulu ya ha ayeg un' dandan gi jukebox, "Kau un' hahasso ha' yu'". Era guiya este i madidibi kantida na salape as kompaireña.

Ineppe as pare 'nai ha dandan, "Kau un' susuñgon ha' yu'". Dispues ha chomen ñaihon mataña ni tobasco para u tuhu ñaihon lagoña kosake siña hineñge-gue' as kompaireña. Tabla!

■■■

Para maestra, infetmera, polisia

Hasan manmanae' dañkulu na premiu pot offisiun niha. Lau guiya este siha na señores yan señoras 'nai ta pepega famaguonta siñku dias gi semana. Man-mafanague leksion kontodu mauleg na bisiu siha deste hinemlu esta'i mañan niha.

Hu lie' un' primahu maestra. Umasoda' ham gi un' tendan trastis eskuela siha. Hu faisen hafa inañgaiña. Ilegña na para u fahane estudianteña 'nos kuantos trastes para u siña makomprende leksion niha siha.

Este na sakrifisiu masusesede gi halom man-antau na maestro yan ma-estara siha. Dañkulu kinimiten niha gi estudianten niha siha. Dialu ya u chatsagan ñaihon. Lau i leksion debi u sige mona kau u fan gasta petsonat gi pinetsigen preparasion eskuelante siha. Ni ñgaian 'nai u fan riku lau megai bendision para siha 'nai malie dispues na man-felis estudianten niha gi karera mona. Mit besis na onru para hamyu.

I infetmera siha deste entrada esta halom gi kuatton hospitat, masuñgon todu mattiru para uma-asegura na ma-assiste i malañgu pot para u chadeg homlu'. Ni unu dumiñgu i malañgu dispues de biradan chochu estake mattu i tahgueña. Ha esplikaye hafa finaposña ennau na malañgu guihe na haane. Ayu dispues 'nai ha rikohe trastesña ya humanau para i gima'.

Makat na offisiu i para un' malague' man-ayuda malañgu. Ti todu man-manae' nu este na korason yan estomagu. Lau para hamyu, un' dañkulu na Si Yuus Maase` pot todu i animon miyu.

I chechu polisia otru sumen piligru. `An humanau i prohimu para i chechu gi oraña, tat seguru na u biragueʼ tatte giya siha la'la'.

Yangin guaha buruka 'sino seriosu na estrakada, siempre u fattu i polisia para u ataha maseha hafa na chinatsaga gi halom komunida. Dañkulu sakrifision niha!

Letter to the Editor

Notes in a bottle

All of us beachcomber types look for interesting jetsam and flotsam along the seashore. Sometimes we find old ropes, fishing floats, ship parts, colorful shells, and always too much trash. I've been doing it for over 60 years, and had always hoped to find "a bottle with a message inside" from a faraway land. I had dropped a few in the ocean around Catalina Island, California, in the 70's, but had never heard back. Maybe my drift bottles are still floating around in the vast ocean or they had busted up on some rocks around Alaska or Macau.

Yesterday I hit the bottle jackpot at Lau-Lau Beach—I found three bottles with notes inside. One was still floating in the water, and two had washed on shore during high tide. For a long-time beachcomber, this was an exciting find—a personal first.

Each tightly corked bottle had a note inside. The wine bottles were not eroded or covered with sea crust, so I assumed they hadn't been in the water long. It was twilight, so I took the bottles home and right away, family members were guessing the bottles were sent by a stranded traveler/lover after a shipwreck, or the bottles had just come from Tinian or had been floating around Saipan for a few days, or the bottles might have a map to a buried treasure.

Drats! It was nothing of the kind—no story of a stranded lover or a clue about a buried treasure. But it was educational.

We took a few photos, and then got the notes out of the bottles. The bottles had been a school project by George Washington High School students out of Hagatna, Guam, and had been dropped in the ocean on September 11, 2010. The purpose of the project was to study the ocean currents, and it appeared that it took 14 days for the drift bottles to reach Saipan from Guam.

Instructions were in the bottle on how to return the information about the currents, which we did; students Gerard Chargualaf, Ricky Meeks and Shaun Avellana will be happy to get the news back about their project.

It appears that I'll have to continue my search for a bottle with a dramatic note inside or maybe a genie in the bottle. These are good reasons to take another beach walk.

Joe Race
San Vicente

NEEDED

From Page 10

To tell you my honest feelings, it is because we refuse to work and find it easier to beg at the NAP office.

It is time to stop blaming the Legislature for all the economic failings. They can only do so much. The rest is up to us. We, the citizens, must create our own lemon orchard. I have been preaching this message for a long time and will continue to do so hoping that it will not continue to fall on deaf ears.

To have all the opportunities of a relationship with the U.S. government and the beneficiary of as much as over a billion dollars and to have so little to show for it is nothing short of being a disgrace!

Is it that we have a secret desire to return to the simpler times of the T.T. days while still enjoying the conveniences of a modern society? Seriously, think about it. Be honest with ourselves. However, we must realize that we cannot have it both ways.

We have been blessed with a beautiful place with wonderful people and many opportunities, but we don't understand that we must work to keep it that way. I recall a short story.

A pastor was driving by a well-tended farm. He spotted the farmer perspiring in the field and went over to congratulate him. "Farmer Jones, you have a beautiful farm. God has been good to you."

The farmer paused, wiped his sweating brow, and replied: "Father, you should have seen the farm before God gave it to me!" Turned and went back to work.

Repeat! REPEAT! Repeat: **"Until we, the people, become work oriented, take up our tools and begin plowing our own backyard, we will never become economically sound and proud again! We must cultivate our own fields."** Have a great day!

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds around 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

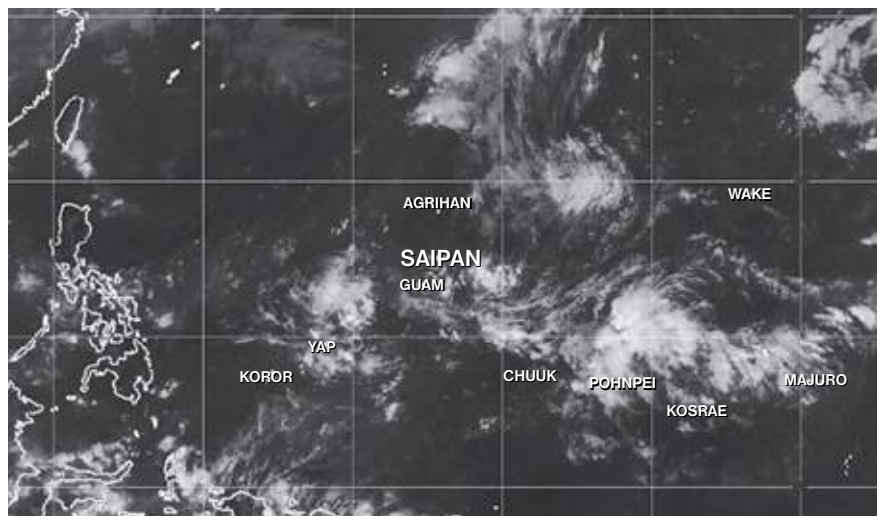
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲86	▼78
Palau	Rain	▲86	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼75
Pohnpei	Sunny	▲88	▼73
Kosrae	Showers	▲89	▼75
Majuro	Sunny	▲87	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲63	▼53
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲70	▼53
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲87	▼71
Honolulu	Sunny	▲85	▼74
London	Fog	▲58	▼50
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲93	▼63
Manila	Thundershowers	▲89	▼77
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲59	▼44
Miami	Thundershowers	▲87	▼79
New York	Showers	▲73	▼63
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲80	▼66
Paris	Fog	▲60	▼47
Pusan	Windy	▲76	▼67
Rome	Showers	▲74	▼58
Salem	Sunny	▲77	▼57
San Francisco	Sunny	▲78	▼61
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲71	▼61
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲77	▼68
Washington, DC	Showers	▲77	▼66

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough west of Guam extends southward from 15N140E to 6N140E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring within 150 miles of the trough axis including at Yap. A stationary front north of the CNMI extends northeastward from 24N142E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found north of a line from 23N144E to 23N150E. An upper-level low centered northeast of Wake Island at 26N176E is generating scattered showers and thunderstorms north of a line from 25N170E to 22N175E to 24N179E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers east of the Marianas between 13N and 16N from 146E to 153E. A surface trough northeast of Chuuk and north of Pohnpei, Kosrae and Majuro extends eastward from 8N150E to 9N160E to 9N170E then turns northeastward to end near 13N176E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found near Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kwajalein and Majuro but north of Kosrae, between 9N and 12N from 148E to 154E between 6N and 12N from 154E to 174E and within 100 miles of a line from 17N177E to 16N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:45 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
10:18 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
3:58 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
9:14 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:06 AM	6:10 PM
Tuesday	6:06 AM	6:09 PM
Wednesday	6:07 AM	6:08 PM
Thursday	6:07 AM	6:07 PM
Friday	6:07 AM	6:07 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:34 PM	8:56 AM
Tuesday	9:22 PM	9:50 AM
Wednesday	10:15 PM	10:45 AM
Thursday	11:12 PM	11:41 AM
Friday		12:35 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2010

DEPARTURES

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	5:00am	5:30am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	Daily
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:35am	Daily
DL297	3:20pm	5:55pm	Daily
DL289	4:35pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA

DL640	7:40am	10:20am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:10pm	Daily via NRT
DL640/629	7:40am	10:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09599/PR111	9:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:30pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	6:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL290	9:45am	2:20pm	Daily
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:10am+1	Daily

NAGOYA-SAIPAN

DL641	9:10pm	1:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/605	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL630/641	6:30am	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
DL172/288	7:40am	1:10am+1	Daily via NRT
C0890/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	6 via GUM
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via GUM-Palau
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Letters to the Editor

No budget, no health or life insurance?

I wonder whether the CNMI legislators have taken into consideration the health of government employees and retirees if no budget is approved by Oct. 1.

If a new budget is not approved, we all know that a large number of government employees will not be receiving a paycheck. For those employees who do not receive a paycheck, there will be no way to deduct the employees' health insurance premiums. If health insurance premiums are not paid to the insurance companies, it is highly unlikely that those companies will continue coverage for health matters, whether it is visits to on- or off-island health facilities or co-payments for prescription drugs. Without paychecks, one can only wonder how people will cope with these unexpected and unplanned-for additional health care expenses.

Furthermore, even for government retirees and those "essential employees" who will still be paid and whose health insurance premiums can still be deducted from paychecks, it is unlikely that the insurance companies (particularly Aetna) will continue their coverage. My understanding is that Aetna treats their active government employee and retiree members as one group. Therefore, without payment from some (the so-called "non-essential employees"), the entire group may be suspended or terminated. Many retirees need regular medical attention and monthly prescription refills. Without health insurance coverage, people's lives may be at stake.

The bottom line is that all health insurance for government employees (including legislators?) and retirees may cease soon after Oct. 1 if a budget is not approved! That's a scary scenario. Even scarier is the possibility that Aetna may determine that providing health insurance for CNMI government employees and retirees is just too problematical for the profit margin it realizes, and completely cease its offerings here.

The same problems, leading to non-coverage, probably apply to life insurance as well.

Ivan Propst
Susupe, Saipan

Was it a mistake coming back to Saipan?

Payless paydays, layoffs, hours cut, businesses going out and/or pulling out, financial issues in every corner of Saipan and finally, "*not reaching rock bottom yet*." It has been a year since I got back from Hawaii and since then, during those months I've been here on Saipan, I have been unemployed and under NAP and getting a little financial help from my parents. Also, during those months, I tried applying for almost every job openings out there that accepts "my" qualifications and I attended interviews and all I got out of it were, "Thank you for coming, we will call you." or "Your resume is very impressive but it's not what were looking for, sorry." I also got false help from people who promise me that they will "hook me up" but until now I still remain unemployed. I am a local, Refaluwasch/Belauan, a high school graduate in his 30s and I am scared for my future on Saipan. Was it a mistake to come back when things are not getting better, but worse?

I am not asking for any sympathy from anyone but at least a chance to make my struggling life on Saipan little easier where I don't have to rely on mom and dad for money or forever be under NAP. I try to stay positive as often I can and try to hang on as much as I could but I grow weary and I am slowly losing my mind, hope and faith. Will Saipan ever get better? Will the corruption ever stop? I guess only God knows.

Lee Kaipat
Garapan, Saipan

Changing times: Reflection on CNMI history

I took an economics class many years ago at the Northern Marianas College and the course was quite interesting (considering the subject). The most thought capturing (but instilled) lesson I remember given on economics, which he emphasized, was that *for every dollar we spend it is seven times fold in our economy*. In other words, for every dollar we withhold is seven fold deprived from our economy.

We are all headed directly to a super typhoon on a sunny day at the expense of our government. Inasmuch as that sounds unreal, so is what the government is doing now.

As a student here, I have written several reports for my classes over the years. My first biggest research and journalism assignment was when I was in eighth grade at Hopwood Jr. High School. Fortunately for me, it was the 25th Anniversary of *Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood* Jr. High School and for our "Hilitai News" I was assigned to write an article on the history of the school and how it got its name (but this is not the point I am trying to make).

During my research I discovered many correspondence between our former leaders and the U.S. government. At that time, between '87-'88, you know who the governor was, which means that I am talking about the leaders that were responsible in negotiating the Covenant! I was impressed with the correspondence I read and for whom they were written to but unfortunately I cannot say the same about our current leaders. Back then our leaders gave us U.S. citizenship; now they refuse to pay us. We are definitely not moving forward but backwards.

Another research paper I wrote involved the Naval Technical Training Unit here on Saipan. For all those that can relate to this subject you know that it was not easy finding information on this matter because of its highly confidential status but I managed to locate actual participants in the project. I interviewed them, some local and some Caucasian, and heard some more interesting negotiations involving our islands and the U.S. government.

As an adult, keeping with the times, everything that has happened during my time is nothing compared to the history that I have read and discovered. Not only are we headed backwards to colonial times, like Colonel Alexandro stated, we are moving faster on fast forward than we did on rewind. And now we are moving 10 times faster backwards that tomorrow we will once again be known as *"Islas de los Ladrones,"* as Winnie Atalig has described in her letter to the editor. We are headed right back to where we started, historically!

In the CNMI's entire history, this administration—the longest of all—is the worst. What a *legacy* you will all be a part of. How can anyone want to be remembered for the unethical, immoral, heartless and brainless acts done so far? Imagine, in the next century or two, what will historians be writing about you in our history books. How comical will our CNMI history be when read by future generations? Are you doing now what you want your past to be written and remembered as? I sure hope you are all proud of all that you have done so far because that is how it will be written. You cannot write your own history the way you want to hear it. There is no changing the past but you can sure start making changes for the future.

History preview: 2000-2015 CNMI's Millennium was also its Great Depression, its legislators and chief executive large contributors.

Karla C. Mareham
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

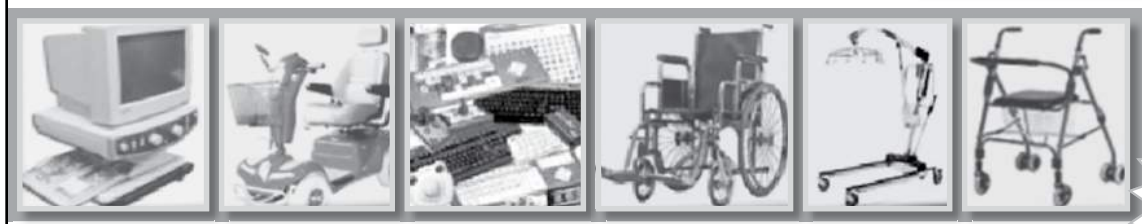
The CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities
in collaboration with
CNMI Assistive Technology Program Presents:

2010 Assistive Technology Fair

'Funding sources for Assistive Technology and/or Services'

September 29, 2010
Wednesday
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Aqua Resort Saipan
(Taga Room)

Activities for the day include:
- Registration
- Assistive Technology Overview
- Trankilu Alternative Financing Program
- Exhibitor Display (Vendors)
- Assistive Technology Devices Showcase
- Assistive Technology Demonstration
- Center for Independent Living /Call-A-Ride Demonstration



Seating is limited!

For more Information and Registration inquiries, please contact:
Christie Sablan at 664-7003 or CDD at 664-7000/1/2
Special Accommodation should be arranged with CDD seven (7) days before the event.

How did we come to this?

By JANE MACK
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Although the weather is clearing up, there is no light in the forecast for the political atmosphere. The CNMI is facing a looming disaster—the shutdown of the government.

How did this happen?

Last November 2009, we amended our Constitution by adopting the initiative HLI 16-11. You can read some information about the original initiative at the MLSC Day In Court Blog. The pros and cons that were provided for voter education at the time are also available online.

But the best information is the actual HLI 16-11initiative that was approved by the voters. This shows the relevant language that was adopted into our Constitution, the language that is now the governing law of the CNMI.

ON THE NET

- **MLSC Day In Court Blog**: http://mlsc-marianas.blogspot.com/2009/11/some-information-for-voters-in-cnmi.html
- **Voter education info:** http://www.votecnmi.gov.mp/downloads/HLI-16-11.pdf
- **House Legislative Initiative 16-11:** http://s3.amazonaws.com/files.posterous.com/tsablan/zZGcPvhJqcm3ayhcFkYAuOiuOZpd4OTbtMXJN9D7e4XaRguoZJYkHQ9QpXLz/HLI_16-11_HD2_Certified.pdf?AWSAccessKeyId=1C9REJR1EMRZ83Q7QRG2&Expires=1285323244&Signature=RMU1Tzt6xC%2B8MhpqbgrDV3ZuPhg%3D.)

This amendment requires a balanced budget by Oct. 1 and, in its absence, prohibits funding government operations by continuing resolution. Rather, only "essential services" are to be funded until a balanced budget is passed.

Who is responsible for this fiasco?

The initiative to amend the CNMI Constitution was introduced by Rep. Diego T. Benavente, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Edward T. Salas, and Ray Yumul.

I don't know who in the House voted for it, but it was passed by the House.

I don't know who in the Senate voted for it, but it was passed by the Senate.

And then it went to the people for a vote in the general election.

I don't know who voted for it among the general population; I only know I didn't vote for it. But it passed.

We the people passed this change into our Constitution. We are ultimately responsible.

Why haven't our legislators passed a balanced budget already?

This of course is the big question.

The legislative highlights on the Senate webpage was last updated April 16, 2010, (as of this writing) and it shows that Sen. Pete Reyes had, by then, introduced a resolution SR 17-12 asking the governor to convene an economic summit to avoid a government shutdown come October. I have no idea what happened to that resolution.

Other action at the time included resolutions to honor Bishop Tomas Camacho and opposing a proposed casino on Saipan.

The House website hasn't been updated since March 26, 2010, (as of this writing). Nothing on it even mentions budget concerns. There was, however, a standing committee report on a bill to amend the CNMI law about immigration. The report was adopted by the House.

On Aug. 18, the House finally passed a budget bill—one that increased their discretionary spending while dishing out a 16-hour-per-payday cut to most other government workers. HB 17-96.

There was an instant uproar and silent protests. House Speaker Froilan Tenorio told the Senate it would be okay to change the budget if they would just increase his leadership account. He also urged them to pass the casino legislation.

On Sept. 6, the Senate approved a budget that amended the House version—cutting legislators' discretionary spending and restoring eight hours of the regular workday to government employees.

On Sept. 14, the House rejected the Senate's amendments of the budget bill.

The House and Senate picked their respective teams for a conference committee, with just 10 days left to resolve the budget crisis. But the Senate walked out of the conference committee efforts because the House negotiating team is insisting on using the need for a budget to get the Senate to approve the casino legislation. They Senate is willing to reconvene, with 5 days left before Oct. 1, provided the House returns in good faith, takes casino legislation off the table, and agrees to open the sessions to the public.

From all of this, I conclude:

1. The House has the responsibility to originate appropriations measures. Despite this duty, it delayed passing a bill until it was very late. The fact that the budget bill is the 96th bill introduced, instead of the first, shows that the House does not have its priorities in order.

2. The House leadership is pushing for increased money for themselves and casinos in Saipan. They don't care about a balanced budget. They don't care if the people suffer. Even the provision to up their discretionary funds and the demand to increase the leadership account are just plain abuses of fiscal responsibility. I think it's all about self-interest (corruption? kickbacks?) and greed.

3. The Senate is trying to do the right thing. They have been paying attention. But they can't do it alone.

So what happens now?

If there is no balanced budget by Oct. 1, the government operations can only pay for "essential services" as those have been determined by law. Although the governor wants to be "the law" it seems that the Constitution actually calls for law in the usual sense. So the bill passed by the Senate defining what is "essential services" is another step in the right direction. A House bill has also been introduced, but no action taken on it. Given how irresponsible the House has been in the budget process, it doesn't seem likely it will be enacted. The Speaker Lang Tenorio is noncommittal on the proposals about "essential services," and I think that means nothing is going to happen.

Another thing about the effect of the Constitution, neither the House nor the Senate members should get any salary at all after Oct. 1 until a budget is passed. The Constitution suspends payment to them. Even if they declare themselves "essential services" they can't override the Constitution. It is clear:

"...if the Legislature does not pass a balanced budget by October 1st, the Legislators' salaries shall be suspended until such time that a balanced budget is passed by the Legislature."

This is small comfort to all of the people who will be out of work and without pay. The House and Senate members deserve the lack of payment; no one else does.

What can we do?

It's not too late for the people to do something. We can't write and pass the budget ourselves, but we can demand that our representatives do their jobs.

I think it is far more responsible to have only eight-hour cuts for workers and reduced discretionary funds for the legislators than to have 16-hour cuts for workers and an *increase* in discretionary funds for these politicians. I think it is unreasonable to hold our budget process hostage over the casino issue. I don't want to see the Speaker get more money in his leadership account.

So, if you agree: Tell your House members to come to their senses and agree to the Senate amendments. Call them at work; call them at home; visit them personally. Put the pressure on. And if they start to tell you, politely interrupt them and say that they've had a lot of time to talk and now they need to listen and do their jobs.

Or else, come Oct. 1, it will be a difficult start to fiscal year 2011 for all of us.

Jane Mack is a lawyer who's been practicing in the CNMI for many years now.

Letters to the Editor

Essential services

My definition of government essential services are those agencies that report to work or are working during typhoon condition 1 and 2. These agencies are DPS, DOC, CHC, EMO, CPA police and Fire Rescue, the CUC power plant—but a limited number of personnel. To my knowledge and recollection, these are the agencies in the CNMI that are considered essential *services* to the people.

Some politicians are trying their best to compromise the voting and are trying to make other agencies essential as the above. Essential means important. Do not try to make or create a doctor or a nurse when you know that they are not just to make people feel better for losing a job. Everyone at this time wants to be considered important, because of job security.

Government employees are not the only people in the CNMI affected and suffering because of the reduction in force and closure of government agencies. Private sectors employees and businesses were the first affected a long time ago. Businesses were closed, some employees lost their jobs or were laid off as a result. The result of shutdown and RIF in the government is now reaching a ratio proportional to what the private sector went through years ago. Thanks to the equivalent inaction of DOI, U.S. Congress, and CNMI leaders. Congratulations for a job well done. You just killed the golden goose that laid the golden eggs! Vision check? Mayday! Mayday!

Thomas Aquino Cabrera Camacho
Chalan Piao, Saipan

Military buildup

The military buildup in Guam is made up of 8,600 U.S. Marines plus 9,000 dependents who will transfer from Okinawa, Japan to Guam. There is no mention of Saipan. In case the military doesn't come here, its okay. CNMI workers get the first priority for jobs in Guam. And the military buildup also provides opportunities for our economy.

I'd like to share my experience. In 1970, I worked for ex-mayor Vicente Manglona. Every morning we had one hour to bring watermelons by pickup trucks and take them to the airport where the military plane from Andersen Air Force base was waiting. Mayor Manglona and the farmers were busy bringing their crops to the airport. The Tinian farmers at that time had a good life with brand new cars, pickup trucks and machinery for farming and new houses.

Just imagine 17,600 Marine with dependents needing watermelons and vegetables every day. The farmers in Guam are already prepared for farming and fishpond. What about Saipan? Give more agriculture homesteads for farming because even Rota, Tinian, and Saipan together won't meet the supply demand of the coming Marines.

Our government must support and improve the quality of our farmers. They should be supplied with machinery, irrigation, and water catchments so that even during dry season they will not be short on water.

Biba farmers! May God bless you.

Teddy Guiao
Navy Hill, Saipan

How is shutdown going to solve our economic depression?

To Governor Fitial and members of the House of Representative and Senate: How is shutting down non-essential government agencies going to solve this economic depression? I mean, employees laid off would be better than shutting down.

One question I would ask: Some federal employees, including PSS and NMC, always say that they will lose federal dollars if their budget is reduced. Where is the proof? Ask for the documents that state this. Because I'm telling you that even in Hawaii they have Furlough Friday for their schools to save on government money, but they never say that they lost federal dollars.

Another is Commerce and Finance departments. I still see a lot of people doing business and I don't see them paying taxes. Some sell bad and poisoned vegetables and no one checking. Another is a contract worker selling hot pepper and fish to us with no business license—and that's because even they are not getting paid.

I for one am waiting for a job opening so I can work because, right now, to tell you the truth, there are a lot of us out here who can perform three times better than the employees you have right now. I tell you, somebody out there is not doing their job and I think it's time you call on all department head to report their progress and from there determine who to lay off or cut their budget.

A wise leader would examine his/her employees if they are doing what he asks of them and he'll reward them or fire them accordingly.

Or you can proceed with your shutdown plan, which will say you failed your people. Another bad image for investors and tourist.

I ask the people of the CNIMI to pray for you all and ask again for God's guidance to lead you in the right path, so that we can follow you there.

Winnie Atalig
San Jose Tinian

STATE

From Page 10

of the inside guys would commit even half the time they spend serving themselves and scheming behind closed doors to genuinely facilitating open communication, transparency and competent service for the common wealth. Some are trying and truth be told, some of those guys are super smart and ultra-talented in so many ways. Sadly, being smart and doing the right thing don't always go hand in hand.

So what does this have to do with issues relating to the needs of individuals with disabilities? Simply put, what doesn't it have to do with people who have disabilities?

It still baffles me when I hear people referring to individuals with disabilities as "that kind," or "those people," or as other more disparaging descriptors, as if DISABILITY was some kind of alien nation dropping *its kind* on earth for a go at life as a human. Somehow, through having or acquiring a disability, a person is inevitably branded as something other than simply a man, woman, boy or girl. The label, more often than not, overshadows the person… for example, the "wheelchair man" or the "retard" or the "handicap"…you know what I'm talking about. Any semblance of a person, at least by some perspectives, gets lost behind the disability. The life of an individual with a disability is often laden with ridicule, indifference and general disrespect, but the bottom line is: they are us. The problems of society affect us all, disability or otherwise.

For more on issues relating to the needs of individuals with disabilities, please feel to contact the NMPASI Office at (670) 235-7273/4 [voice], 235-7275 [fax], 235-7278 [tty] or via the internet at www.nmpasi.com (please note that the NMPASI website will be undergoing an upgrade with major updates in the upcoming months).

NMC ETS student excels in math, science summer camp

Northern Marianas College Educational Talent Search student Brittany Santos Sablan recently completed the Math and Science Summer program at the Leeward Community College in Hawaii.

Sablan, a senior at Marianas High School, was selected to participate in the rigorous six-week summer program to strengthen and advance her skills and knowledge in mathematics and science, and to prepare for college. The goal of the program is to help students, primarily in high school, recognize and develop their potential to excel in these subjects in order to encourage the students to pursue postsecondary degrees in related fields.

Sablan, who plans to pursue a career in health care or technical engineering, was both "nervous and excited" as she headed to Honolulu on June 9, 2010.

"The thought of learning more about my favorite subjects—math and science—on a completely new place really motivated me to apply to be in the program," said Sablan.

"This was the first time that I had ever been so far away from home for over a month, but I'm glad I had this experience" adds Sablan.

Besides taking courses in areas such as Science & Research Writing, Trigonometry, Astronomy, and Senior Guidance, Sablan also took time with other program participants to visit famous landmarks and local favorites on the island of Oahu.

"Studies always came first, but afterwards we were always on our feet," said Sablan. "It was a blast."

"As a young adult preparing to transition from high school to college, Brittany has demonstrated dedication and self motivation that is reflected in her academic accomplishments," said ETS counselor Theresa Taylor. "We all wish for her continued success and have great hopes for her future."

Sablan has been a student in the ETS program for nearly a year. She is an active participant in many her high school's sports programs, such as cross-country and the outrigger canoe team. She has also competed in and won awards from the National Forensics League and Math Court competitions.

The ETS program is a federally funded programs under the TRiO program. It is designed to provide educational guidance and support to middle and high school students in order to ensure their continued success that will lead to the completion of high school and the pursuit of higher education. ***(NMC)***

NMC

Brittany Santos Sablan poses for a photo during a visit to the USS Arizona Memorial in Pearl Harbor in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Three MHS students get AP Scholar Awards

Three students at Marianas High School have earned AP Scholar Awards in recognition of their exceptional achievement on AP Exams.

The College Boards Advanced Placement Program provides motivated and academically prepared students with the opportunity to take rigorous college-level courses while still in high school, and to earn college credit, advanced placement, or both for successful performance on the AP Exams.

About 18 percent of the nearly 1.7 million students worldwide who took AP Exams performed at a sufficiently high level to also earn an AP Scholar Award. The College Board recognizes several levels of achievement based on students' performance on AP Exams.

Marianas High Schools 2010 valedictorian Darren Demapan qualified for the AP Scholar with Distinction Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.

Two more students, Dowen Jacson and Won Joo Kim, qualified for the AP Scholar Award by completing three or more AP Exams with grades of 3 or higher.

Of this year's award recipients at Marianas High School, Jocson is an incoming senior, and has one more year in which to complete college-level work and possibly earn a higher-level AP Scholar Award.

More than 3,600 colleges and universities annually receive AP grades. Over 90 percent of four-year colleges in the United States provide credit and/or placement for qualifying exam grades.

Research consistently shows that AP students who score a 3 or higher on AP Exams (based on a scale from 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest) typically experience greater academic success in college and higher graduation rates than students who do not participate in AP.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Belated happy birthday greetings go out to Ms. Daisy Villagomez-Bier, who celebrated her birthday yesterday, Sept. 26! May you be blessed with many, many more birthdays to come! Thank you for being an inspiration to us all! Much love from your hubby and children, and your entire CNMI Counseling crew!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings go out to Marlon Dean Gabredo Cabrera, who is celebrating his 29th birthday today, Sept. 27! Don't overdo it now! May you have many more birthdays to come! Much love coming from your wife Cathy, son Caleb, and the rest of your *familia* and friends!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
MVA-RFP-10-2302
MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

For: Representation, Promotion and Public Relations Services for the Korea Market

Closing Date: September 30, 2010 Time: 3:00 p.m.

Submit sealed proposals to: The Division of Procurement & Supply
P.O. Box 10008. Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the scope of work and application for local preference at the Marianas Visitors Authority office between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, except holidays or by visiting the MVA website at www.mymarianas.com.

/s/ HERMAN SABLAN
Director, P&S

/s/ PERRY P. TENORIO
Managing Director

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP10-DOC-149

SUBMISSION: OCTOBER 12, 2010 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF A MIMC-VIDEO TELECONFERENCE SYSTEM EQUIPMENT FOR THE CNMI MILITARY INTEGRATION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE"

THE RFP PACKAGE MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MR. TOM LINDEN, MIMC COORDINATOR AT cnmi.mimc@commerce.gov.mp NO LATER THAN 4:30 PM., LOCAL TIME, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2010.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE IT IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ MICHAEL J. ADA
Secretary of Commerce

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB10-DPW/BSC-165

SUBMISSION DATE: OCTOBER 13, 2010 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE LEASE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS - BUILDING SAFETY CODE DIVISION, SAIPAN"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

INTERESTED BIDDERS SHOULD SUBMIT ALL QUESTIONS OR REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION IN WRITTING NO LATER THAN CLOSE OF BUSINESS, SEPTEMBER 30, 2010.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH; LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

Commonwealth Ports Authority
Multi Year Financial and Compliance Audit Services

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
CPA-RFP-007-10

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed cost proposals for auditing services for a period of three fiscal years. The locations and scope of work package is available beginning Tuesday, September 7, 2010 from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor, Arrival Building, at the Saipan International Airport.

Interested proposers must submit one original and three copies of the sealed proposal. Only proposals from U.S. nationally recognized firms will be accepted.

The sealed proposals must be submitted before 4:30 p.m., Monday, September 27, 2010, at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the Arrival Building, at the Saipan International Airport. CPA reserves the right to reject any and all proposals if in its opinion to do so is in CPA's best interest.

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Executive Director

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Public Health
Community Guidance Center
Guma' Ina' Ayuda Imwaal Alillis
(Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services)

The Community Guidance Center, under the Department of Public Health is reapplying for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant. For public comments, questions and concerns about the application, please come on Thursday, September 30th, 2010 at 3:30 p.m. to the Community Guidance Center, Room #15.

P.O Box 500409 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 323-6560/61 Fax: (670) 323-6580
E-mail: cgc4@dphcgc.com

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB10-DPW/TSD-166

SUBMISSION DATE: OCTOBER 13, 2010 • TIME: 11:00 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE LEASE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS - TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, SAIPAN"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

INTERESTED BIDDERS SHOULD SUBMIT ALL QUESTIONS OR REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION IN WRITTING NO LATER THAN CLOSE OF BUSINESS, SEPTEMBER 30, 2010.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH; LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB10-RDLNR-155

SUBMISSION: OCTOBER 13, 2010 • TIME: 1:00 P.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) UTILITY TRACTOR - CIF ROTA FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES, ROTA BRANCH"

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MAYOR OF ROTA

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

/s/ JOEY ANTHONY QUITUGUA
RESIDENT DIRECTOR
DLNR, ROTA

Business

SHRM MEETING TOPIC:

NMI's minimum wage, FLSA

The Society for Human Resource Management CNMI Chapter will be focusing on the upcoming CNMI minimum wage increase during its September general membership meeting.

The luncheon topic, called "CNMI Minimum Wage and the Fair Labor Standards Act," will be presented by Patrick Candoleta, assistant district director for the U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division in Guam.

The lunch meeting will be held at the Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret on Thursday, Sept. 30, 2010, from 11:30am to 1:30pm.

This presentation is open to the public and will be an invaluable opportunity for employers and employees to learn more about the implementation of the increased minimum wage at the end of this month and the application of the Fair Labor Standards Act (also known as the Wages and Hours Bill) in the CNMI.

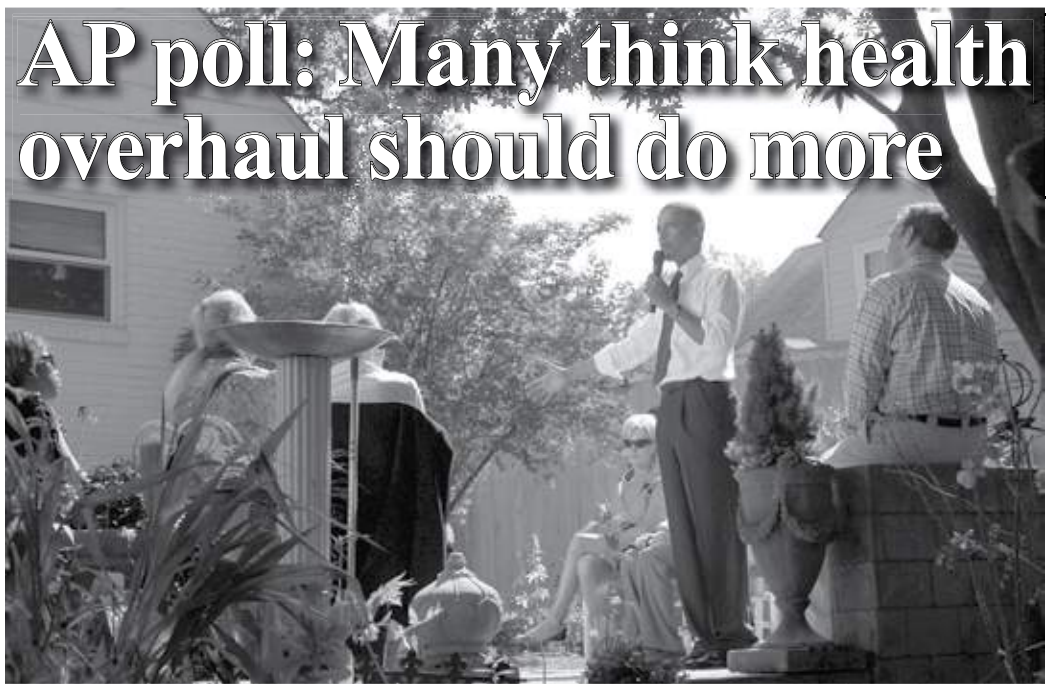
The Fair Labor Standards Act was originally passed into law in 1938. FLSA established a minimum wage, guaranteed "time-and-a-half" for overtime in certain jobs, and prohibited most employment of minors. FLSA applied to almost all employees unless an employer can claim an exemption from coverage.

Candoleta will provide an overview of the FLSA and discuss important topics such as:

- What is the Fair Labor Standards Act and how does it affect my business and employees?
- What are the most common FLSA and compensation violations in the CNMI and Guam?
- Who is exempt from the FLSA?
- Does the CNMI minimum wage go up for everyone on September30th?
- What are legitimate deductions from employee wages and what must employees be paid for?
- How should automatic service charges by employers be distributed to employees (i.e., waiters/waitresses)?
- What are the consequences of violating the minimum wage increase and the FLSA?

The presentation includes lunch and the cost is $20 for SHRM members and $30 for non-members. Seats are limited, so reserve your seat by contacting Polly Deleon Guerrero, SHRM CNMI Chapter vice president, at 237-5122 or email her at polly-dlg@gmail.com. ***(SHRM)***

AP poll: Many think health overhaul should do more



AP

In this Sept. 22, 2010, file photo President Barack Obama, accompanied by Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, center, speaks at a private residence in Falls Church, Va.

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama's health care overhaul has divided the nation, and Republicans believe their call for repeal will help them win elections in November. But the picture's not that clear cut.

A new AP poll finds that Americans who think the law should have done more outnumber those who think the government should stay out of health care by 2-to-1.

"I was disappointed that it didn't provide universal coverage," said Bronwyn Bleakley, 35, a biology professor from Easton, Mass.

More than 30 million people would gain coverage in 2019 when the law is fully phased in, but another 20 million or so would remain uninsured. Bleakley, who was uninsured early in her career, views the overhaul as a work in progress.

The poll found that about four in 10 adults think the new law did not go far enough to change the health care system, regardless of whether they support the law, oppose it or remain neutral. On the other side, about one in five say they oppose the law because they think the federal government should not be involved in health care at all.

The AP poll was conducted by Stanford University with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Overall, 30 percent favored the legislation, while 40 percent opposed it, and another 30 percent remained neutral.

China rises and rises, yet still gets foreign aid

BEIJING (AP)—China spent tens of billions of dollars on a dazzling 2008 Olympics. It has sent astronauts into space. It recently became the world's second largest economy. Yet it gets more than $2.5 billion a year in foreign government aid - and taxpayers and lawmakers in donor countries are increasingly asking why.

With the global economic slowdown crimping government budgets, many countries are finding such generosity politically and economically untenable. China says it's still a developing country in need of aid, while some critics argue that the money should go to poorer countries in Africa and elsewhere.

Germany and Britain have moved in recent months to reduce or phase out aid. Japan, long China's biggest donor, halted new low-interest loans in 2008.

"People in the U.K. or people in the West see the kind of flawless expenditure on the Olympics and the (Shanghai) Expo and it's really difficult to get them to think the U.K. should still be giving aid to China," said Adrian Davis, head of the British government aid agency in Beijing, which plans to wrap up its projects in China by March.

Nation

5 shot, 1 killed in NJ rampage

By ERIN VANDERBERG and SAMANTHA HENRY
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITERS

EAST ORANGE, N.J. (AP)—A man who was denied access to a private party at an apartment near Seton Hall University left and returned with a handgun, then fatally shot a student and wounded four people, sending screaming partygoers rushing out the door and climbing out windows.

Seton Hall student Jessica Moore, 19, died from her injuries Saturday afternoon, said Katherine Carter, a spokeswoman for the Essex County Prosecutor's Office. Moore had been hospitalized in critical condition after the shooting just before 12:20 a.m.

The other four victims were hospitalized with non-life-threatening injuries, and one has been released, said East Orange Police Sgt. Andrew Di Elmo.

The victims did not know the shooter, who fled from the apartment on foot, Di Elmo said. Police offered a $10,000 reward for information leading to the suspect's capture.

Police said that two of the wounded are both 19-year-old women who go to Seton Hall, and one is a 25-year-old man who attends the New Jersey Institute of Technology. The fifth victim is a 20-year-old man from New York City who is not a student.

Moore was a sophomore honors student from Disputanta, Va., majoring in psychology, said the university's interim president, Gabriel Esteban. Esteban, who appeared to be on the verge of tears during a news conference on campus, said he had been with the students' families in the hospital all day.

"It's a call no parent wants to get," he said.

Police were not releasing the other victims' names because the shooter remains at large, Di Elmo said.

A student who said she attended the party and had classes with Moore said a fight started after a man was kicked out because he didn't want to pay the cover charge. The woman did not give her name, citing fears for her safety because the shooter was not in custody.

She said the man came back and began firing.

"This girl was here to go to school and nothing else, and she just wanted to go have fun, and we all were having fun 30 seconds before that happened," the woman said of the shootings.

Another partygoer told The Star-Ledger of Newark that he was in the kitchen and heard people shouting in the living room when a shot rang out. More shots were fired as the panicked crowd stampeded toward the back of the house to try to escape, the man said. He also declined to give his full name to the newspaper out of fear for his safety.

Flood fight in parts of Minn., Wis.

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—With 240 guests expected, Luke Fischer and Rachel Smith weren't about to let the widespread flooding in southern Minnesota get in the way of their wedding Saturday.

The 24-year-olds, who live in the Minneapolis suburb of St. Louis Park, went back to her hometown of Waseca to get married at the Church of the Sacred Heart. Their reception was about 10 miles away at the Owatonna Country Club, in a city where 70 homes had to be evacuated.

"We're pretty happy we don't have to take a duck boat to the reception," a relieved Fischer joked a few hours before the nuptials.

With the Owatonna area drying out, officials at the state's Emergency Operations Center said the focus Saturday included Zumbro Falls and Hammond in southeastern Minnesota, and St. Clair and Madelia in south-central Minnesota. Across the border, concern shifted to the rising Wisconsin River in central Wisconsin.

A slow march of thunderstorms across southern Minnesota through central Wisconsin from Wednesday through Friday dumped several inches of rain across the region. Storm totals between 5 and 7 inches were common, with 10.86 inches at Amboy in south-central Minnesota. The governors of both states declared states of emergency.

In Owatonna, a town of about 24,000 about 65 miles south of Minneapolis, Maple Creek, Turtle Creek and the Straight River were receding Saturday. Emergency Operations Manager Mike Johnson said he didn't expect levels to rise, despite some rain in the forecast.

ACROSS THE NATION

8 shot, 3 stabbed, 1 dead at east LA house party

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Eight people were shot—one fatally—and another three stabbed Saturday after a fight broke out at a birthday party, authorities said. One man, Steven Lopez, 22, died at the scene and two other gunshot victims were taken to County-USC Medical Center with critical injuries, police said. A dispute at the late-night house party in the Boyle Heights neighborhood escalated until several people pulled out guns and knives. The condition of the other five shooting victims was described only as stable and there was no word on the condition of the stabbing victims, but all the remaining victims were expected to survive. "I've never seen so many aggravated assaults in one scene," Capt. Anita Ortega told the Los Angeles Times. No arrests have been made. Ortega said that different kind of shell casings at the scene suggested multiple shooters.

NYC mother, boyfriend arrested in death of boy, 2

NEW YORK (AP)—A 27-year-old woman and her boyfriend have been arrested in the beating death of the woman's 2-year-old son in New York City. Police say the boyfriend, 31-year-old Reginald Williams, was arrested Saturday on murder charges. The boy's mother, Teresa Foster, was arrested on charges of weapons possession and endangering the welfare of a child. Both are awaiting arraignment. Aiyden Davis was found unresponsive inside a Brooklyn apartment at about 10:30 p.m. Friday after a 911 call reporting an assault. The boy was pronounced dead at a nearby hospital. A spokeswoman for the medical examiner says the cause of death was blunt impact injuries to his head, torso and extremities. A spokesman for Administration for Children's Services says the agency is investigating.

Delta flight makes safe emergency landing in NYC

NEW YORK (AP)—A jet carrying 60 passengers from Atlanta to suburban New York having landing gear problems has made an emergency landing at John F. Kennedy Airport in New York City. Port Authority Spokesman Steve Coleman says Delta Connection Flight 4951, operated by Atlantic Southeast Airlines, landed safely at about 8:20 p.m. Saturday. He says there were no reports of injuries or fire. Atlantic Southeast Airlines spokesman Jarek Beem says all passengers exited safely through the main door onto the tarmac and were bused to the terminal. He says the airline was working with the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board to investigate the landing gear problem.

Asia

China repeats demand

BEIJING (AP)—China has reiterated its demand for an apology from Japan over the detention of a Chinese fishing boat captain whose arrest plunged relations between the Asian neighbors to their lowest level in years.

The statement from the foreign ministry late Saturday was issued after Tokyo refused earlier in the day to apologize to China following the release of the captain whose vessel collided with Japanese patrol boats near disputed islands this month.

"China of course has the right to demand Japan apologize and make compensation," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu said in the Chinese-language statement.

The diplomatic back-and-forth over the weekend demonstrated that nationalistic sentiments stirred up by the incident show few signs of dissipating. Tensions have already affected business ties between the nations' intertwined economies—the world's second- and third-largest.

Japanese authorities released the captain, Zhan Qixiong, early Saturday and he was flown home by chartered plane to Fuzhou in China's southeastern Fujian province.

State broadcaster China Central Television showed Zhan, 41, smiling and holding his fingers in a victory sign as he walked off the plane. He was greeted by family members bearing flowers and a small group of government officials.

But hopes that his release would defuse mounting tensions were dashed when China promptly demanded an apology and compensation from Japan.

Japan's Foreign Ministry said the demands were groundless and "absolutely cannot be accepted."

Zhan was arrested on Sept. 8 after his boat collided with two Japanese patrol vessels near a chain of islands called Diaoyu in China and Senkaku in Japan. The islands, about 120 miles (190 kilometers) east of Taiwan, are controlled by Japan but are also claimed by Taiwan and China.

Obama, Southeast Asian leaders urge free navigation in the region

NEW YORK (AP)—U.S. President Barack Obama and Southeast Asian leaders sent China a firm message Friday over territorial disputes between Beijing and its neighbors, calling for freedom of navigation in seas that China claims as its own.

Obama pledged to take a strong role in regional affairs, something welcomed by leaders in the fast-growing region.

The meeting between Obama and the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations comes as China, the other superpower in the region, and its neighbors bicker over territorial claims in surrounding seas.

According to a readout of the meeting provided by the White House, the leaders "agreed on the importance of peaceful resolution of disputes, freedom of navigation, regional stability and respect for international law, including in the South China Sea."

China also has differences with Japan in the East China Sea, although tensions between the neighbors were eased after Japan released a Chinese fishing boat captain involved in a collision near disputed islands. Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan called Friday for calm in ties between the countries.

ASIAN BRIEFS

5 infected with deadly pneumonic plague in Tibet

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese authorities say five people have been sickened with pneumonic plague in Tibet and that the deadly disease has killed one of them.

The Tibetan regional health department says the cases were reported in Laduo, a village in Lang county in the remote region. The department said in a statement Sunday that the first case was found Sept. 23 and that the patient died of a severe lung infection. The remaining four people have been quarantined. The disease can kill in as few as 24 hours if left untreated. Last year, an outbreak of the disease in a farming town in Qinghai province killed three people and sickened nine, prompting authorities to seal off the community of 10,000 people for more than a week.

NATO: Bomb blast kills 2 troops

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Two NATO service members were killed in a bomb blast in southern Afghanistan on Sunday, the military alliance said. NATO said the troops were killed by an improvised explosive device, but provided no further details. The nationalities of NATO deaths are not generally released until after the next of kin have been contacted. This year is already the deadliest of the war, with more than 530 international forces killed. NATO also said it launched an air strike late Saturday in Kunar province, along the Pakistan border, that targeted a senior al-Qaida commander who coordinates a group of Arab fighters in the area, saying he routinely helped them travel into the region. It did not say whether the commander was killed in the attack, but said his compound was destroyed.

Commonwealth Games head sees improved conditions

NEW DELHI (AP)—With athletes trickling into New Delhi on Saturday and cleaning crews rushing to scour their rooms, the Commonwealth Games chief said India was working hard to ensure it is prepared to host the beleaguered sporting event—though much remains to be done. The talk of postponing or canceling the games that emerged this week after a footbridge collapsed, two tourists were shot and the athletes' village was found to be filthy, dissipated after the government poured enormous resources into urgently addressing the problems before the opening ceremonies on Oct. 3. Commonwealth Games Federation President Mike Fennell—on an emergency trip here to address the problems—told reporters that significant work had been done in recent days. Among the ongoing concerns was the water remaining in the basements in the athletes' village, transportation and technology difficulties, and issues with security and fire safety, he said.

Officials: Alleged US missiles kill 4 in Pakistan

MIR ALI, Pakistan (AP)—Suspected U.S. missiles targeted a vehicle Saturday in northwestern Pakistan, killing four alleged militants, intelligence officials said. It was the 17th such attack this month—the most intense barrage since the airstrikes began in 2004. Shortly before the attack, the vehicle left a militant hide-out in Datta Khel, a town in the North Waziristan tribal area that is controlled by insurgents focused on attacking NATO troops in Afghanistan, the two intelligence officials said. It is not clear exactly why the attacks have spiked, but most of this month's strikes have targeted forces led by Jalaluddin Haqqani, a commander who was once supported by Pakistan and the U.S. during the war against the Soviets in Afghanistan.

World

Storm shreds aging Haiti tents

A girl stands next to her tent after it fell down due to heavy rain at a camp for earthquake survivors in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Saturday, Sept. 25, 2010.
AP

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—The sudden, powerful storm that ripped through Haiti's battered capital destroyed thousands of tents in the homeless camps where more than 1.3 million people live eight months after the earthquake destroyed their homes, shelter officials said Saturday.

The death toll from Friday afternoon's storm stood at six people, with nearly 8,000 tents damaged or destroyed, according to a statement from the United Nation's International Organization for Migration. The organization said it had distributed 5,000 tarps.

Earlier, Civil Protection chief Marie Alta Jean-Baptiste told The Associated Press that the dead included two children and hundreds of people were reported with varying degrees of injury.

The storm's effect was exacerbated by the flimsiness of tarps and tents that have been baking, soaking and flapping in the Caribbean elements since the Jan. 12 earthquake killed at least 230,000 people and left millions homeless. Hundreds of thousands of families continue living on the streets of the capital waiting for temporary housing or money to find new apartments.

"Many of the tents that were destroyed had reached their end of lifespan," said Gerhard Tauscher, shelter cluster coordinator for the International Federation of the Red Cross.

Reconstruction has barely begun despite billions of dollars pledged for Haiti in the wake of the disaster. Less than 15 percent of money promised at the U.N. donor's conference in March 2has been delivered. The United States, which spent more than $1.1 billion in humanitarian aid after the quake, has not delivered any of its promised long-term funds.

Wood and metal temporary shelters fared much better in the storm, suffering minimal damage. But few of the earthquake homeless have those.

Abbas: Settlements block peace deal

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said Saturday there will be no peace deal with Israel unless the Jewish state stops settlement construction in areas the Palestinians claim for their future state.

"Israel must choose between peace and the continuation of settlements," Abbas said in his address to the U.N. General Assembly's annual ministerial meeting.

Direct peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians stalled only three weeks after starting in Washington in early September over the impending end of a 10-month freeze on new Israeli settlement construction on land claimed by the Palestinians.

Abbas reaffirmed the Palestinian commitment to try to reach a peace deal.

"We have decided to enter into final status negotiations. We will continue to exert every effort to reach an agreement for Palestinian-Israeli peace within one year in accordance with resolutions of international legitimacy ... and the vision of the two-state solution," Abbas told ministers and diplomats.

But with a Sunday deadline looming for Israel to resume the contested building, the Palestinians are waiting for U.S. efforts to break the impasse. President Barack Obama has increasingly placed efforts to resolve the conflict at the center of his foreign policy, but both Israeli and Palestinian officials said Saturday a deal was far from certain.

State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley said U.S. special Mideast peace envoy George Mitchell met with Abbas for about half an hour on Saturday.

"We remain engaged with both sides," he said.

Earlier, Crowley said, "We are doing everything we can to keep the parties in direct talks."

Bomb scare diverts plane; could be hoax

STOCKHOLM (AP)—Canadian police are investigating whether a phoned-in hoax caused a Pakistani jet to be diverted to Stockholm for several hours Saturday for fear that one of its passengers was carrying explosives.

Police evacuated 273 people from the jet, and briefly detained a Canadian man, after an anonymous caller in Canada tipped-off authorities that the suspect was carrying explosives.

However, no explosives were found on the man, who was released after questioning by police, or on the Boeing 777 from Pakistan International Airlines, which had been bound from Toronto to Karachi, Pakistan.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police said it was investigating whether the incident was a "terrorism hoax."

"If the information is deemed to be a hoax, the person who passed along that information can be charged for public mischief," said spokeswoman Sgt. Julie Gagnon in Ottawa.

All passengers - except the suspect - were allowed back on the plane at Stockholm's Arlanda airport nine hours later.

It took off for Manchester, England, from where the passengers would continue their journey to Karachi, said Jan Lindqvist, a spokesman for airport operator Swedavia.

Life & Style

Fiesta unveils newly renovated Hibiscus Hall

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Fiesta Resort and Spa in Garapan has upped its game with the unveiling of a new and improved Hibiscus Hall last Friday night.

The hotel resort closed its ballroom hall for two months to implement major renovations as part of efforts to make it more competitive.

"The primary objective is to be on top of the business. We brought the Hibiscus Hall to a higher standard that's more suitable and appropriate for any occasion," said Food and Beverage Manager Das Krishnan.

The Hibiscus Hall now takes pride in having the largest screen and the latest projector on island. Aside from upgrading its equipment and sound system, the newly renovated hall showed off its enhanced interior with its tinted glasses, newly installed carpet, new tables, and recessed ceiling.

The renovation of the Hibiscus Hall has attracted a lot of businesses for the hotel, with the hall reserved as a venue for conferences, weddings, and other occasions.

Guests from the hotel industry and representatives of the business community indulged in a lavish feast in celebration of the event.

Guests line up at the buffet at the center of the newly refurbished Hibiscus Hall.

CLARISSA DAVID

Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan, left, poses with guests and Tan Siu Lin Foundation manager Ed Arriola, right.

CLARISSA DAVID

Fiesta Resort and Spa general manager B.K. Park delivers his opening remarks during the unveiling of the newly renovated Hibiscus Hall Friday evening in Garapan.

CLARISSA DAVID

Students of the Keynotes School of Music are presented to the crowd during the unveiling of the newly renovated Hibiscus Hall Friday evening in Garapan. The four provided background music to the night's event.

CLARISSA DAVID

Guests pose for the *Saipan Tribune* during the unveiling of the newly renovated Hibiscus Hall Friday evening in Garapan.

CLARISSA DAVID

Century Insurance Co. president Dave Sablan recounts the history of the Fiesta Resort and Spa during Friday night's unveiling of the newly refurbished Hibiscus Hall.

CLARISSA DAVID

Tan Holdings senior vice president Eli Arago, fourth from left, pose with affiliate officials and staff during the unveiling of the newly renovated Hibiscus Hall Friday evening in Garapan.

CLARISSA DAVID

Guests and Tan Holdings executives smile for the camera during Friday night's event.

CLARISSA DAVID

Comedian tells US Congress farm work 'really hard'

By SUZANNE GAMBOA
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—Taking his blowhard comedy act to Congress, television star Stephen Colbert told U.S. lawmakers that a day picking beans alongside illegal immigrants convinced him that farm work is "really, really hard."

"It turns out—and I did not know this—most soil is at ground level," Colbert testified Friday. Also, "It was hotter than I like to be."

Still, Colbert expressed befuddlement that more Americans are not clamoring to "begin an exciting career" in the fields and instead are leaving the low-paid work to illegal immigrants.

Staying in character as a Comedy Central news commentator, Colbert offered a House hearing his "vast" knowledge, drawn from spending a single day on a New York farm as a guest of the United Farm Workers.

The union launched its "Take Our Jobs" campaign to back up its claim that few Americans would do the work of farm laborers, the vast majority of whom are in the U.S. illegally. Only seven people accepted the jobs, the union said.

Colbert pleaded with lawmakers to do something about the farm labor issue because "I am not going back out there."

A House bill that creates a pathway to citizenship for illegal immigrants has been filed and another is being drafted in the Senate but Congress is due to recess soon to focus on fall elections. The bills, or pieces of them, could come up in a session after the Nov. 2 congressional balloting. .

As the immigration subcommittee hearing began, House Judiciary Chairman John Conyers praised Colbert for drawing a roomful of onlookers and photographers. Then he asked the comedian to leave the room—and to leave the job of testifying to the expert witnesses, including Farm Workers President Arturo Rodriguez.

"You run your show, we run the committee," said Conyers, a Democrat.

There was some grumbling from lawmakers about Colbert testifying in character. It is not unusual for actors to appear at hearings, but they are normally speaking as themselves. Congress has heard testimony from the Sesame Street puppet Elmo, however.

Colbert said he was there at the invitation of subcommittee Chairwoman Zoe Lofgren, a Democrat. And Conyers later gave him the go-ahead, apparently hoping Colbert's performance would counter the testimony of a political science professor who said illegal immigrants were competing with black and Hispanic citizens for jobs.

Colbert wiped his brow and launched into his mock right-wing act, demanding that lawmakers do something about the agriculture industry's dependence on immigrant labor.

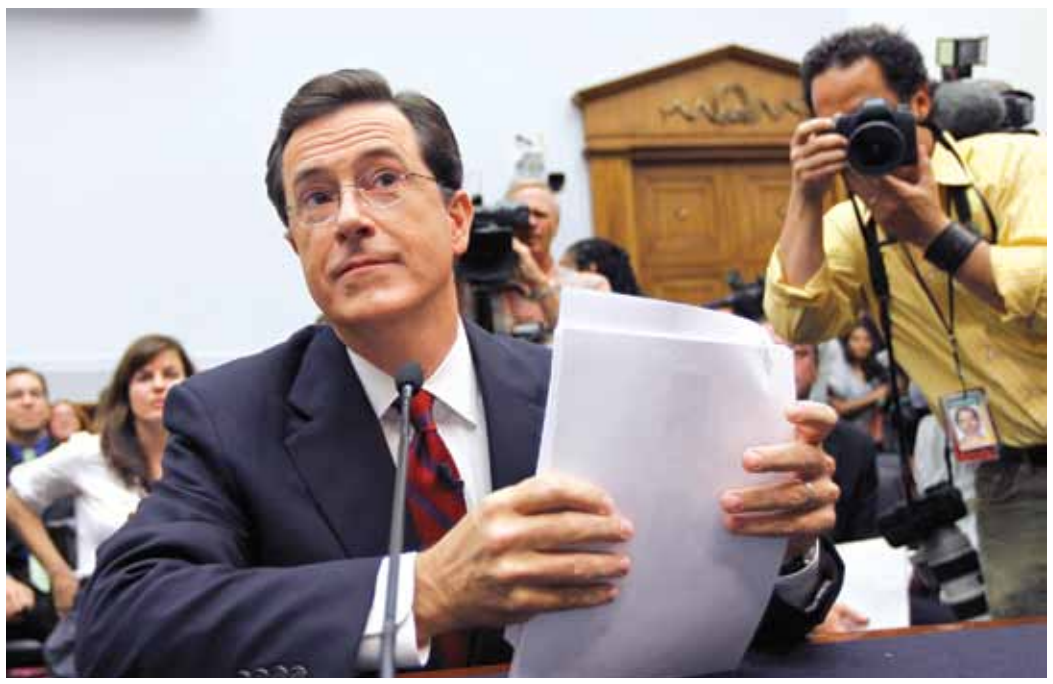
"I'm not a fan of the government doing anything," Colbert insisted. "But I've got to ask, Why isn't the government doing anything?"

Colbert's humor drew guffaws from the audience and several Democrats on the subcommittee. But most of the Republicans sat stone-faced.

"Maybe we should be spending less time watching Comedy Central and more time considering all the real jobs that are out there," said Rep. Steve King, a Republican.

At the close of the hearing, Colbert dropped his TV persona and turned serious, saying he was using his celebrity to bring attention to farm labor because "these seem to be the least of my brothers."

"Right now migrant workers suffer and have no rights," Colbert said.



◀ Comedian Stephen Colbert, host of the Colbert Report, prepares to testify on Capitol Hill in Washington, Friday, Sept. 24, 2010, before the House Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security and International Law subcommittee hearing on Protecting America's Harvest.
AP

1st Year Death Anniversary

We, the family of the late

Adela Dela Cruz Babauta

Would like to invite our relatives and friends to commemorate the first year death anniversary of our beloved Mother, Grandmother, and Great Grand mother into her eternal life with our heavenly father.

Mass of intentions will be offered nightly at Santa Soledad Church beginning September 25, 2010 at 6:00pm and on Sunday, September 26, 2010 mass will be at 9:00am

On September 27 thru October 02, 2010 mass will be at 6:00pm and on the final day, Sunday October 3, 2010, mass will be at 9:00am at Santa Soledad Church. After mass, breakfast will be served at Santa Soledad Social Hall.

Un dangkulo na Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Ginen I Famaguon-na yan Familianniha

In Humble Gratitude

We the family of the late

Eileen Olopai Pellegrino

wish to acknowledge our families, friends and colleagues for the many expressions of love, prayers, kindness and thoughtful gestures that have been bestowed upon us during our time of loss.

Your soothing words brought comfort and hope to all of us, and your presence with us during our daily Eucharistic Celebration and the Mass of Christian Burial has given us the courage to press on each day. We are truly grateful for your friendship and support.

Our sincere thank you to Fr. Celso and clergy members, Marianas Health Services Homecare nurses and therapists, Commonwealth Cancer Association, Commonwealth Health Center physicians, Nuestra Senora Dela Paz Memorial Chapel and all who have contributed in one way or another.

Your generosity will be remembered always. May God Bless and Keep You.

Tony Pellegrino, children & family

"Please do not grieve and shed wild tears and hug your sorrow to you through the years, but start out bravely with a gallant smile;

And for my sake and for my name live on and do all things the same;

Feed not your loneliness on empty days, but fill each waking hour in useful ways,

Reach out your hand in comfort and in cheer
And I in turn will comfort you and
hold you near; and never,
never be afraid to die
For I am waiting for you in the sky"

Lindsay Lohan spends less than a day in LA jail

By ANTHONY McCARTNEY
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lindsay Lohan was freed from a suburban Los Angeles jail late Friday night, well short of the nearly monthlong stay a judge had intended for the actress following a failed drug test.

Lohan was released at about 11:40 p.m. after posting $300,000 bail, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department spokesman Steve Whitmore said early Saturday.

Celebrity website TMZ.com reported her release just before midnight.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Elden Fox had ordered Lohan held without bail during a brief hearing Friday morning, But his ruling later was overturned after the "Mean Girls" star's attorney, Shawn Chapman Holley, filed a late-afternoon appeal seeking bail.

Judge Patricia Schnegg, who is an assistant supervising judge of LA's criminal courts, issued a ruling shortly before 6 p.m., saying that since the starlet had been convicted of misdemeanors, she was entitled to bail.

The actress is not entirely free. She will be required to wear an ankle alcohol monitor and stay away from establishments that primarily sell alcohol.

She is also due back in court on Oct. 22, when the judge who curtly sent her to jail will decide what her punishment will be for failing a drug test roughly two weeks after he released her early from rehab.

At that hearing, Fox will formally determine whether Lohan, 24, violated her probation by failing a court-mandated drug test. The positive result came after the judge released Lohan early from inpatient rehab at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center.

Fox did not say why he had ordered no bail for the actress Friday morning, or state what drug appeared in her system during the recent test.

Friday marked the third time Lohan has been sent to jail in a three-year-old drug and drunken driving case. She spent 84 minutes at the jail in 2007 and 14 days of a three-month sentence earlier this summer.

After news of her positive drug test broke last week, Lohan seemed to acknowledge an addiction problem on her Twitter feed.

"Substance abuse is a disease, which unfortunately doesn't go away over night," Lohan posted on Twitter on Sept. 17. "This is certainly a setback for me but I am taking responsibility for my actions and I'm prepared to face the consequences."

Fox had laid out a strict 67-day course of counseling, substance abuse meetings, monitoring and drug testing for Lohan in August. He asked probation officials on Friday to report how the actress had progressed on the treatment programs before Lohan's next court hearing.

The judge has said Lohan would be sent to jail for 30 days for each drug screening she skipped or failed and appeared to make good on the promise with his no bail order.

If he sentences her to jail in October, the amount of time he orders her to serve would be whittled down because of jail overcrowding and various credits.

AP

A courtroom sketch of the Lindsay Lohan hearing at the Beverly Hills Courthouse in Beverly Hills, Calif., Friday, Sept. 24, 2010.

TLC tackles polygamy with 'Sister Wives'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Duggars have 19 and counting. Kate Gosselin has eight. Kody Brown has four. Wives, that is.

TLC, the network responsible for behemoth family exposes like "Kate Plus 8" and "19 Kids and Counting," is turning its reality TV attention to another kind of domestic abundance: polygamy. "Sister Wives," premiering Sunday at 10 p.m. EDT, follows a fundamentalist Mormon family composed of one daddy, three mommies and 13 children living under one roof.

"It just felt like our story needed to be told," said Kody, the affable patriarch who works in advertising and lives with his family in Lehi, Utah. "There's a lot of stereotypes out there that are actually perpetuated by the press. I wanted to make sure the world understood that we're polygamists, but we're not the polygamists that you think you know."

The series follows Kody, 41, as he brings fourth "sister wife" Robyn, 31, and her three children from a previous marriage into the brood. (He is only legally married to first wife Meri, 39.) Kody and the wives, who said they are not members of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, wanted to give a public face to polygamy.

"We come from a closed society," said third wife Christine, 37. "That was one of the reasons we wanted to do the show, to open up our society, just so people can see what it's like. Because of that, I think that there is a lot of fear that comes from doing things like this. We just want to show our family. We don't even want to go into our church life."

Instead of examining the religion that inspires the Browns' lifestyle, "Sister Wives" focuses on their mostly mundane household as Robyn enters the mix. There's no "Big Love"-style salaciousness here. The Browns are far less chaotic than the fictional Henricksons from HBO's polygamy drama, and parts of their lives are off limits to reality TV.

"There's boundaries that we've established," said Kody. "Some of those would be what's not family oriented. I try to avoid talking about politics or about religion. I talk about my faith because it's mine, but my religion belongs to an entire society of people. I don't really want to talk about religion or politics or the bedroom."

'Neds' wins Spanish top film award

By ALVARO BARRIENTOS
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

SAN SEBASTIAN, Spain (AP)—British director Peter Mullan's film "Neds," has won this year's top award at Spain's San Sebastian Film Festival, organizers said Saturday.

The movie, a British-French-Italian co-production, is an insightful exploration of the violent upheavals of adolescence within the harsh environment of 1970s Glasgow in Scotland. It tells the story of the struggle of a young John McGill to make his mark on life.

Connor McCarron won the best actor award for his role as McGill, an intelligent, sensitive boy eager to learn and forge a future for himself but who finds life's chances stacked heavily against him, in the urban of Glasgow harbors another strong influence—the gangs—which include the Neds, Non-Educated Delinquents.

AP

British director and actor Peter Mullan, left, and Connor McCarron, celebrate with champagne as Mullan wins the Golden Shell for Best Film and McCarron the Silver Shell for Best Actor with their film 'Neds' at the 58th San Sebastian Film Festival in San Sebastian northern Spain, Saturday Sept. 25, 2010.

Mullan gained experience working in Mel Gibson's "Braveheart," Ken Loach's "Riff-Raff", and Danny Boyle's "Trainspotting."

Nora Navas was voted best actress for her part in Spanish film "Pa Negre," meaning "Black Bread" in the Catalan language. The movie, directed by Agusti Villaronga, is set in a Catalonia devastated by the 1936-39 Spanish civil war.

The best director award went to Raul Ruiz of Chile for "Misterios de Lisboa," a Portuguese production, while the festival jury's special mention award went to Spanish film "Elisa K."

The best photography category was awarded to Jimmy Gimferrer for his work in the Spanish production "Aita," and the best screenplay prize went to Bent Hamer for "Home for Christmas," a Norway-Sweden-Germany co-production.

The awards will be handed to winners at a glittering ceremony at this seaside resort city on Saturday night.

CNN replaces its US chief

NEW YORK (AP)—CNN's continued struggles with its prime-time lineup led to the firing Friday of Jon Klein, the U.S. network's top executive, less than two weeks before a schedule revamp he engineered was about to launch.

Klein has been replaced by Ken Jautz, who currently runs HLN, said Jim Walton, CNN Worldwide President. CNN is also seeking another executive who will serve as executive vice president and managing editor of CNN Worldwide.

Klein

CNN slipped behind MSNBC into third place this year in its prime-time ratings, where Fox News Channel remains a dominant number one. Cable news viewers have increasingly become interested in hearing news filtered through strong, partisan viewpoints and CNN has resisted that approach for fear it would hurt its brand as an impartial news source.

The image of CNN as hurting particularly frustrates Walton, who noted that prime-time advertising accounts for only 10 percent of the company's revenue. CNN has been profitable for seven consecutive years during a disastrous time for the news industry, he said.

"CNN is not broken," he said. "While we're not satisfied with the ratings at CNN prime time and they clearly need to get better, CNN as an organization and a business is thriving."

Klein has held his job for six years, overseeing more aggressive news coverage and the development of Anderson Cooper and medical specialist Dr. Sanjay Gupta as major personalities. The former CBS News executive said he's confident CNN is better today than when he arrived in December 2004.

"I'm disappointed, but these things happen in the media business," Klein said, "and they happened to me this time."

The timing was odd given that Klein's reboot of two-thirds of CNN's prime-time schedule was to begin on Oct. 4. That's when a show hosted by the liberal former New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer and conservative newspaper columnist Kathleen Parker is to debut.

In December, Larry King will leave CNN's prime-time lineup after a quarter-century hosting his own talk show, to be replaced in January by British tabloid veteran and "America's Got Talent" judge Piers Morgan.

American wins dumplings at karaoke worlds

MOSCOW (AP)—The karaoke world's newest star is about to find out if Russian dumplings are good for the throat—he won a million of them at the Karaoke World Championships.

Edward Pimentel, a telephone company technician from Albuquerque, New Mexico, got the unusual prize after the audience at the competition in a Moscow banquet hall voted him their favorite early Sunday for his dapper and assured R-and-B performances. He chose Usher's "DJ's Got Us Fallin' In Love" for his final-round song.

Organizers said the dumplings are enough to last 27 years if someone eats 100 of them a day.

A panel of judges chose two Finns as the male and female champions—Sam Moudden and Maria Saarimaa-Ylitalo. They were awarded karaoke machines. Moudden, sharply dressed in Rat Pack style, performed "Je Suis Malade" and the purple-gowned Saarimaa-Ylitalo sang Celine Dion's "I Surrender."

Two singers who stretched karaoke's boundaries beyond the usual pop favorites placed second. Fedor Rytikov, a gastroenterologist by day, advanced to the finals with the "Nessum Dorma" aria from "Turandot," then stayed with Italian music for the final with "L'Immensita."

Russia's Julia Kurileva was second with the most adventurous choice of the night—the wordless and eerie wailing of Pink Floyd's "Great Gig In The Sky."

Tami Marie, also of Albuquerque, placed third among the women and Austria's Georg Duschlbauer was third among the men.

Amateur singers from 16 countries took part in the three-day competition, the eighth world championships for the art form that's risen from a barroom recreation to a worldwide phenomenon.

O'Donnell is first political target of SNL season

DOVER, Del. (AP)—With the new season of "Saturday Night Live" comes a fresh batch of political satire - and Delaware Senate hopeful Christine O'Donnell is the first target.

The Republican candidate's past statements were fodder for the opening sketch on Saturday night's broadcast on NBC.

The sketch involved actors portraying the tea party darling O'Donnell and two Republican officials concerned about her past statements, including speaking out against masturbation.

The actress playing O'Donnell says she is no longer against masturbation and, in fact, masturbates constantly. She also says she once ran a dog fighting operation and burned down somebody's house.

The sketch ends with the actress donning a witch hat and flying away on a broom, a reference to O'Donnell's claim years ago that she dabbled in witchcraft in high school.

AP

In this Friday, Sept. 17, 2010 file photo, Delaware Republican Senate candidate Christine O'Donnell delivers remarks at Values Voter Summit in Washington.

'Judge Judy' topples 'Oprah' from top daytime spot

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Judge Judy" won a ratings verdict over "Oprah" last season to rank No. 1 among daytime series.

According to Nielsen figures, Judy Sheindlin's courtroom show averaged 6.3 million daily viewers, compared with 5.7 million for Oprah Winfrey's talk show. "Judge Judy" became the first show to knock "Oprah" out of the top spot in a decade—and it was "Judge Judy" that did it the last time, too.

Winfrey relied on more reruns than usual last season, which affected her ratings.

Sheindlin is in her 15th year with the legal show. Winfrey, who's in the 25th and final season of her syndicated show, will launch a new cable network in January.

"Judge Judy" has been renewed through 2013.

This year flu shots are recommended for everyone

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: Now is the time of year your readers should get vaccinated against influenza to protect themselves and their loved ones throughout the 2010-11 flu season.

This year, our nation has a new and very simple recommendation to keep our population safe: Everyone 6 months of age and older should get vaccinated! Doing it now will protect you throughout the entire flu season, which can run into the spring months.

The influenza vaccine is safe—you cannot get influenza from it. In addition to getting vaccinations in doctors' offices, people can receive them in pharmacies, supermarkets, senior centers and schools. Parents should be aware that children younger than 9 years old may need two doses.

Although prevention actions like washing your hands and covering your cough help to prevent transmission of the flu virus, the BEST way to avoid spreading it to others is to be vaccinated every year.

DEBORAH L. WEXLER, M.D., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, IMMUNIZATION ACTION COALITION

DEAR DR. WEXLER: I'm pleased to know that this year's flu vaccine is available early, and that there is enough for everyone.

Readers, because influenza is contagious one to two days before symptoms appear, it can be spread to others before we even know we're infected. That's why it's important that everyone be vaccinated not only for our own protection, but also for the protection of family, friends and others in the community who are vulnerable to the serious and sometimes deadly complications of influenza. The good news is, this year there is no need for a separate H1N1 shot because H1N1 protection is included in this year's vaccine.

For more information, contact your health care provider, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website at www.cdc.gov/flu, or call the CDC Info Center at (800) 232-4636.

P.S. Dr. Wexler tells me that if you miss being vaccinated this fall, you can still get vaccinated in January or later because flu season often doesn't peak until February. But dear readers, for my sake, PLEASE do it sooner rather than later so I won't worry about you!

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I'm pregnant with my first child. This will be my parents' first grandchild and my fiance's parents' fourth. My mother lives in another state and won't be able to attend the birth, and my fiance and his father are not close.

My problem is my future mother-in-law. When she asked to be present during the birth, I told her no. She became extremely upset when she found out my father will be in the room.

I have nothing against my future mother-in-law; it's just that she's a drama queen, and I'm not comfortable sharing such an emotional event with her. Am I wrong for allowing only one grandparent and not the other?

MOM-TO-BE IN MESA, ARIZ.

DEAR MOM-TO-BE: The birth of a first baby, while a happy event, can also be scary, challenging and traumatic. It is important that you be as relaxed and comfortable as possible. If you prefer that only your fiance and father be present, then that's how it should be. Any witnesses should be at the invitation of the person doing the delivering, and frankly, for your future mother-in-law to have asked to be present, rather than waiting to be invited, was presumptuous.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Bristol Palin launches Facebook page

AP

In this May 6, 2009 file photo, Bristol Palin, daughter of former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, arrives at an event to promote National Teen Pregnancy Awareness Day in New York.

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—Following in her mother's footsteps, Bristol Palin has launched an official Facebook page. Among her first subjects: her role on "Dancing with the Stars."

The 19-year-old daughter of former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin says the Tuesday launch is part of a new chapter in her life.

The single mother of a toddler son, Bristol Palin says she wanted to step out of her comfort zone to tell her story and advocate for the "pro-life and pro-family cause."

She says she is excited about her TV dancing role and says her dance partner, Mark Ballas, visited with her in Alaska this week.

Her mother, the 2008 Republican vice presidential nominee, also has an official Facebook page, using it to endorse conservative candidates and expound on her political views.

Beckham sues publisher over prostitute claims

AP

Los Angeles Galaxy midfielder David Beckham (23) warms up before the start of an MLS soccer match against New York Red Bulls, Friday, Sept. 24, 2010, in Carson, Calif.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lawyers for David Beckham have filed a lawsuit in Los Angeles alleging that a magazine knowingly published false claims about the former England captain's private life.

The suit filed Friday in Los Angeles Superior Court accuses Delaware-based Bauer Publishing Company LP and its affiliates of libel, slander and intentional infliction of emotional distress for the In Touch magazine article.

The suit also names 26-year-old Irma Nici, who is quoted as making the allegations.

Beckham publicist Jeff Raymond says suits are being filed in other jurisdictions including Germany, where Bauer's parent corporation is located.

An e-mail to Bauer late Friday was not returned.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Chinua Achebe named winner of 2010 Gish Prize

NEW YORK (AP)—The committee that awards the Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize has announced that Nigerian-born writer Chinua Achebe is this year's winner. Achebe is author of the 1958 novel "Things Fall Apart," which has sold 10 million copies worldwide. He has published more than 20 other volumes of short stories, essays and poetry. The Gish Prize, now in its 17th year, recognizes leading artists in such fields as drama, music and dance, as well as literature. Achebe joins past winners including Bob Dylan, Arthur Miller and Robert Redford. Totaling $300,000 from silent film stars Dorothy and Lillian Gish, the Gish Prize is one of the largest and most prestigious awards in the arts.

Cast of Lady Liberty's nose unsold at NYC auction

NEW YORK (AP)—Lady Liberty has been jilted at an auction of iconic items in New York City. A copper cast of the tip of the Statue of Liberty's nose that was up for sale on Friday went unsold. The nose, which was expected to fetch between $150,000 and $200,000, was one of four made during a restoration effort in the 1980s. Among the items that did sell was the falcon statuette in the 1941 film-noir classic "The Maltese Falcon." A spokeswoman for Guernsey's auction house says it was sold for $325,000 to a group of buyers that included actor Leonardo DiCaprio. Two prop tablets from the movie "The Ten Commandments" carried by actor Charlton Heston during his portrayal of Moses sold for $18,000. The buyer's identity wasn't immediately known. All prices included a 22 percent buyer's premium.

Ray Charles Memorial Library opens in US

LOS ANGELES (AP) — On what would have been his 80th birthday, Ray Charles has joined the likes of past presidents Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan with his own namesake library in Southern California. The Ray Charles Memorial Library officially opened its doors Thursday night. Housed in the studio and office building Charles built in South Los Angeles in the early 1960s, the library features interactive exhibits about the musician's life and career. Charles' friends and colleagues — including Quincy Jones, B.B. King, producer Jimmy Jam and filmmaker Taylor Hackford — welcome visitors via video to each section of the library, which is more like an interactive museum. Touch screens invite guests to explore Charles' most memorable recordings, while exhibits feature some of his Grammy awards, stage costumes, old contracts and ever-present sunglasses.

Aye Carumba! Bart Simpson statue stolen

HOLBROOK, Massachusetts (AP)—Aye Carumba! A Bart Simpson statue has been stolen from outside of a Massachusetts restaurant. The three-foot tall, 75-pound ceramic statue sitting on a park bench outside of Leggos in Holbrook disappeared sometime Sunday, and management is having a cow. Owner Astrit Gorezi says the statue, which was chained down, was a popular topic of conversation with customers. He says he just wants it back. Gorezi brought the statue a few months ago for a few hundred dollars. Police are investigating, but so far have no suspects, not even Simpson's nemesis, Sideshow Bob.

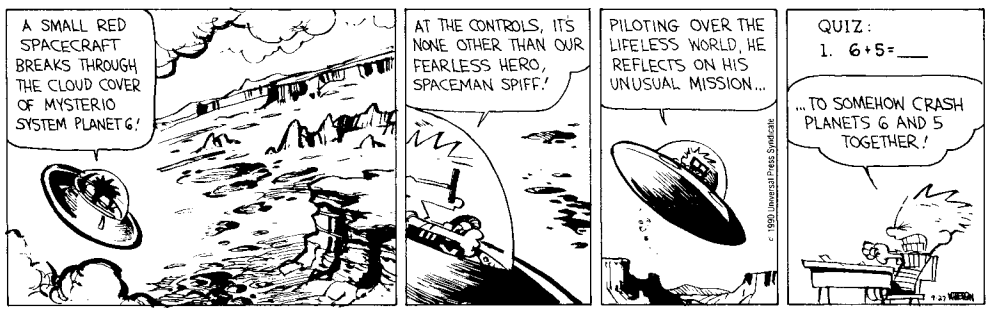
US comic breaks record with 40-hour standup act

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — Comedian Bob Marley raised more than $12,000 for the Barbara Bush Children's Hospital in Portland, Maine, by joking his way to a record standup act that lasted 40 hours. Marley got a thumbs-up from an official from the Guinness Book of Records on Thursday night at Portland's Comedy Connection, where he broke the previous record of 38 hours, 6 minutes, held by Lindsay Webb of Australia. Marley started Wednesday morning and yukked it up until he reached the 40-hour mark. He says he went 18 hours before having to repeat jokes. Guinness rules allowed a five-minute break every hour. Rules also stipulated that there had to be at least 10 people in the audience at all times. They paid $10 per hour to watch. The event was carried live on Sirius radio's Comedy Showcase.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


A SMALL RED SPACECRAFT BREAKS THROUGH THE CLOUD COVER OF MYSTERIO SYSTEM PLANET 6!
AT THE CONTROLS, IT'S NONE OTHER THAN OUR FEARLESS HERO, SPACEMAN SPIFF!
PILOTING OVER THE LIFELESS WORLD, HE REFLECTS ON HIS UNUSUAL MISSION...
QUIZ: 1. 6+5=___
...TO SOMEHOW CRASH PLANETS 6 AND 5 TOGETHER!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

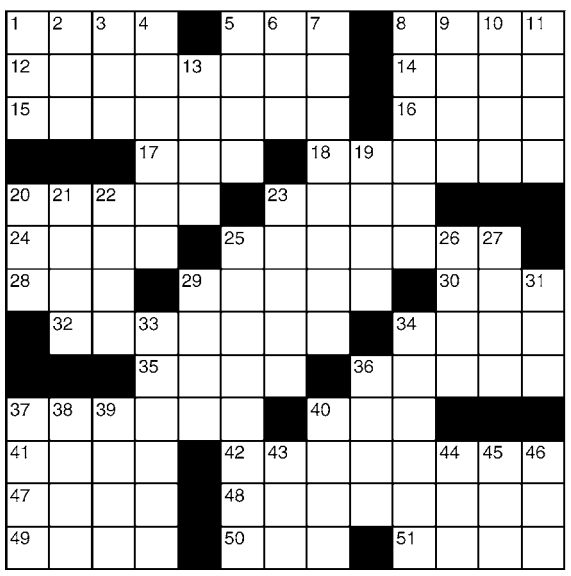
ACROSS
1 Victories
5 Exist
8 Grate
12 Baldness
14 Always
15 Head of state?
16 Dossier
17 Travail
18 So all can hear
20 Donkeys
23 Intimidates
24 Storage structure
25 Glasses with stems
28 Crone
29 Israel politico Shimon
30 Ram's mate
32 Special boys
34 Throb
35 Unctuous
36 That certain something
37 Tenor Enrico
40 America's uncle
41 Addict
42 A driver tries to hit it
47 Rod attachment
48 Sort of
49 "— and the Tramp"
50 Baseballer's topper
51 Go by bus

DOWN
1 Joker
2 UN agency
3 Oct. follower
4 Gushed forth
5 Dermatologist's case
6 Carnival city
7 Oft-pierced body parts
8 Just say no to
9 Eager
10 Vend
11 Quarry
13 Love god
19 Hooters
20 Blond shade
21 Carpet type
22 Lily variety
23 Hackneyed
25 Based on earth science
26 Abound
27 Trade
29 Omegas' preceders
31 Biblical verb suffix
33 With sullenness
34 Wartime plane
36 Lummoxes
37 Ringlet
38 Between ports
39 Oboe insert
40 Reply to a masher
43 — budget
44 Blackbird
45 1960s hallucinogen
46 Sheltered side

Solution time: 24 mins.

A	C	E	S	■	A	L	F	A	■	Y	E	W
S	A	K	I	■	D	E	A	F	■	O	V	A
A	P	E	X	■	J	A	M	B	■	Y	E	T
P	O	D	S	■	U	F	O	■	F	O	N	T
■	■	■	H	T	S	■	U	S	O	■	■	■
G	A	L	O	O	T	■	S	T	U	P	O	R
U	N	I	O	N	■	■	A	R	E	N	A	■
S	Y	S	T	E	M	■	Z	I	P	P	E	D
■	■	■	E	R	A	■	U	N	O	■	■	■
H	E	I	R	■	T	O	R	■	S	T	A	R
E	L	F	■	Z	U	N	I	■	T	A	R	O
A	U	F	■	E	R	I	C	■	E	X	I	T
P	L	Y	■	N	E	T	H	■	R	I	D	E

Saturday's answer 9-27



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Avril Lavigne, 26; Gwyneth Paltrow, 38; Tamara Taylor, 40; Meat Loaf, 63

Happy Birthday: Don't dwell on the negative when positive input will bring the best results. Be creative and insightful when working with others and they will help you to reach your goals. Look past any little pitfalls and strive for perfection. Discipline will pay off. Your numbers are 7, 18, 22, 27, 31, 36, 40

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Give everything you've got to how you earn and spend your money. The financial goals you set now will make the difference in how you live in the future. Look at long-term investments, not fast cash deals. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You stand a much better chance of getting what you want if you take people by surprise. Love, partnerships and traveling to meet with people in your life who count will all lead to getting ahead personally or professionally. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't get trapped in someone else's dilemma. Put your hard work and dedication into something that will benefit you and help you reach your goals. Watch out for emotional manipulation. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): If you waste time telling everyone what your plans are, you will not reach your goals. Criticism can be expected from someone older or dependent on you. Do not put up with negativity. Love is in a high cycle. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Before you give in to someone's demands, consider alternatives that will ensure you put an end to such occurrences. Talks about travel or learning will give you a greater sense of what you are capable of doing and how to go about it. Problems with a partner are apparent. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): There is nothing too difficult if you are willing to take the steps necessary. Success is within reach but not if you don't put forth an effort. Plan each move you make with precision, dedication and loyalty and it will pay off. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You may feel at odds about what you should be doing and what you can do. Rethink your strategy. The changes you make at home will have the greatest impact, even if you face opposition initially. Change is long overdue. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't dismiss what's being offered or an opportunity to network and take part in industry events. You have more to contribute than you realize. Once you get started, the outcome will alter your future in a positive and creative way. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Focus on what you do best and offer what you can to those in need. A change at home may be upsetting at first but it will be to your benefit to accept the alterations being made. Turn a new beginning into an adventure. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Recognize and support the people you love and care for the most. It's your strong belief in your own abilities that can help you encourage others to give an optimum performance. You have the drive and determination to increase others' enthusiasm. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Take a good look at your current situation and you will come up with a plan that will help you budget your finances better and make your life a little easier. Don't spend money trying to impress someone you want to get to know better. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Love is in the stars and getting together with someone you care for will lead to a greater understanding and a much better future. Making changes to your home to accommodate a new lifestyle is important. Combining several elements into one will bring you the highest reward. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are hardworking, accommodating and adaptable. You are intense, strong-willed and compassionate and you learn from the past.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	9	8		6				
4				9		7		
2				1	3		5	
			8			1		
1	8	7		3		5	6	9
		4			9			
	1		9	8				7
		5		2				3
				4		2	1	

Difficulty Level ★ 9/27

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

1	8	3	9	2	7	6	5	4
6	9	7	8	4	5	2	1	3
2	5	4	6	1	3	8	7	9
7	6	9	3	8	1	4	2	5
4	2	8	7	5	9	1	3	6
3	1	5	2	6	4	7	9	8
8	3	6	5	7	2	9	4	1
5	4	2	1	9	8	3	6	7
9	7	1	4	3	6	5	8	2

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/25

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

'DANCING WITH THE STARS' **Solution: 9 letters**

C	L	S	N	O	S	A	E	S	V	O	T	E	S	N
B	A	L	L	R	O	O	M	J	R	E	N	N	I	W
I	T	N	D	A	P	A	S	L	A	S	T	P	R	S
S	I	T	N	H	N	P	R	E	N	E	S	A	R	M
E	N	R	O	I	E	I	C	O	K	E	(M)	T	A	I
I	P	N	M	T	N	N	F	E	C	I	(O)	T	H	T
T	E	R	S	B	E	G	G	N	R	K	(V)	E	U	H
I	E	H	O	I	G	N	A	R	E	L	(E)	R	N	G
R	S	S	D	G	E	M	O	T	T	R	I	N	O	I
B	R	U	H	L	R	R	B	S	H	P	N	V	R	L
E	A	P	L	O	B	A	O	E	A	L	A	E	E	T
L	E	A	F	A	W	H	M	L	A	M	E	I	G	O
E	H	R	L	A	C	H	E	Y	E	T	B	T	R	P
C	E	L	I	M	I	N	A	T	I	O	N	A	E	S
P	R	A	L	U	P	O	P	S	E	K	R	U	B	S

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Athletes, Audience, Ballroom, Beat, Bergeron, Burke, Canning, Celebrities, Challenge, Elimination, Finals, Genre, Harris, Host, Lachey, Latin, Live, Mirrorball, Move, Osmond, Pairs, Pattern, Performances, Phone, Popular, Program, Push, Rank, Rehearse, Rock, Role, Salsa, Samba, Seasons, Show, Smith, Spin, Spotlight, Steps, Styles, Votes, Winner

Last Saturday's Answer: Platform

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE GUARDIANSHIP OF BONA JUNG,
An Incompetent,
By:
EUN TEACK JUNG and MI SOON JEON,
Petitioners.

FCD-GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 10-0490

ORDER SETTING HEARING APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIANSHIP FOR INCOMPETENT PERSON

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of Guardianship for the above-named by Eun Teack Jung and Mi Soon Jeon Petitioners, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court and is open for review at the office of the Clerk of the said Court in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Guma Hustisia Building, Susupe, Saipan, NMI, before the Honorable Kenneth Govendo on the 18th day of October 2010 at 1:30 P.M. or as soon as thereafter.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

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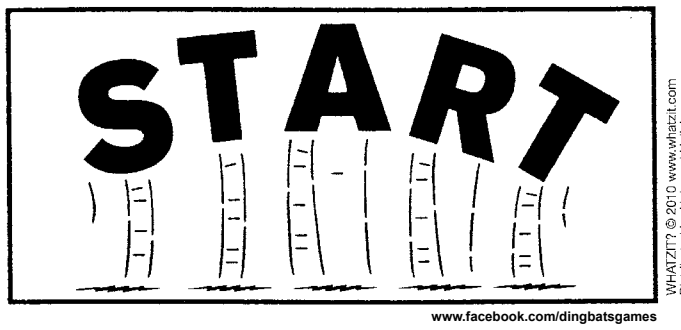


www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in this section

Lakers eager to see what Heat bring to NBA season

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP)—Kobe Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers can only chuckle when they acknowledge the story line for the upcoming NBA season.

At least at the start, it's all about South Beach, not Hollywood.

And that's just fine with the NBA finals MVP and his supporting crew, who reported for training camp Saturday after an extra-short summer. It's not often that a two-time champion team returning every significant contributor isn't the odds-on favorite the following season.

In fact, the Lakers are almost looking forward to moving to the fringe of the spotlight that's shining directly on the Miami Heat.

"There will be times when they're the toast of the town and everybody is focused on them, and that's fine," point guard Derek Fisher said, smiling. "With the type of maturity we have, there's not really that much concern about what other people are doing."

The Lakers will have enough challenges simply getting back into form, incorporating several new players and surviving a European tour after perhaps the shortest possible offseason. After winning Game 7 of the NBA finals on June 17, they're back at their training complex several days earlier than normal to prepare for games in London and Barcelona early next month.

"We joke about it—the reward for being the NBA champion is you get to start earlier than everybody else!" Bryant said. "Congratulations! It's surreal that we're back here already. Seems like the parade was just yesterday."

The next parade got tougher to plan when LeBron James and Chris Bosh elected to join Dwyane Wade with the Heat. The Lakers watched the offseason saga along with their fans and the oddsmakers who immediately installed the South Beach superstars as title favorites.

The Lakers aren't insulted. They're as curious as anybody to see if Miami will coalesce into a great team.

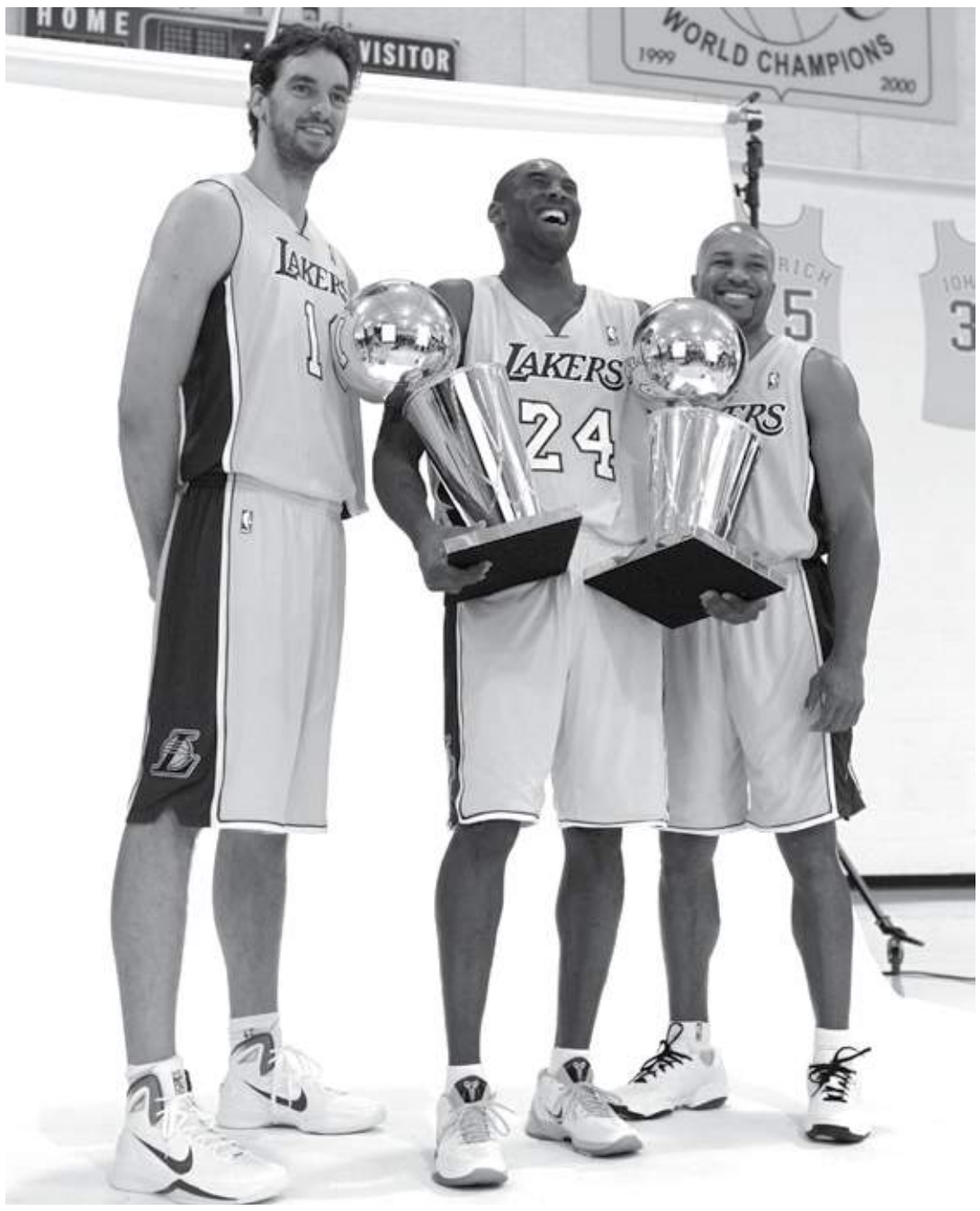
"I actually like the whole thing," said center Andrew Bynum, who revealed he's unlikely to play until late November while recovering from offseason knee surgery. "I kind of like that a player has that kind of power. A couple of guys can get together and say they want to play together, even guys like that. I think it's great for the game."

Lamar Odom sees the Heat juggernaut from a similar perspective, figuring the Miami circus will stoke overall fan interest in basketball this fall.

"I think it's good for the league," said Odom, who spent the past two weeks resting after winning a world championship with the U.S. team in Istanbul. "With the new collective bargaining agreement coming up, I think it'll help. It makes things a little more competitive, which you want. It helps the story line of the season. We don't want them to be too good, though. We want them to be good enough."

Bryant had nothing but praise for the Miami superstars' decision, and he even jumped to the defense of James, his teammate on the U.S. team at the Beijing Olympics.

"I'm just excited for him, because he seems to be happy with his decision," Bryant said. "My sentiments don't go beyond that. ... All the other stuff, I didn't like, because everybody was coming down on him."



AP

Los Angeles Lakers' Pao Gasol, left, of Spain, Kobe Bryant, center, and Derek Fisher pose for photos during NBA basketball media day at Toyota Sports Center in El Segundo, Calif., Saturday, Sept. 25, 2010.

Bryant used the offseason to heal, getting cleanup surgery on his troublesome right knee and resting his arthritic index finger on his shooting hand. The finger still bothers Bryant a bit, but the recovery time from surgery to repair it is far too long for his tastes.

"It's better than it was last year," Bryant said. "If I get hit on it, it hurts for a minute, and then it goes away. For the type of injury that it is, knowing I can play with it, (surgery) doesn't make any sense. I've been practicing without the tape on it, and I can follow through on my shot, no problem."

Bynum has a problem: He had his injured knee drained twice during the playoffs and a third time after the season, but then postponed surgery so he could make a trip to Europe and South Africa, visiting Germany and Spain before attending the World Cup with Bryant and Gasol.

"It was amazing, because I never saw to much emotion going through people," Bynum said.

Bynum wrapped up the trip with a four-day safari. Coach Phil Jackson praised the center for indulging in life experiences that aren't always available to a 23-year-old who joined the workforce straight out of high school.

Bynum said he delayed the surgery until late July because everybody thought his recovery would last no more than eight weeks, but his surgeon changed plans and did a more thorough procedure that requires more down time. Bynum can't put any undue stress on his leg for another four weeks.

The Lakers have 18 players in camp and 14 likely to make the team, including second-round draft picks Devin Ebanks and Derrick Caracter, who seemed a bit star-struck while walking around the complex in their gold Lakers uniforms.

And the Lakers have the full attention of Ron Artest, who capped his first NBA championship run by cramming an absurd amount of trips, charity work and general goofiness into his three-month break. Artest, who's now wearing No. 15, also was back in the gym one day after Los Angeles finished off the Celtics.

Count him among the NBA fans who are eager to see what the Heat can do when they visit Staples Center on Christmas.

"They've got a great team, but Boston also made some good trades, good signings," Artest said. "There's Orlando, and obviously Oklahoma is still good. (Kevin) Durant is the second-best player in the NBA. ... It's going to be a great season. There's great teams all across the board."

Furyk emerges with the lead

ATLANTA (AP)—Jim Furyk headed to the first tee Saturday in the Tour Championship and heard his father and coach, Mike Furyk, give him a simple instruction to "just play golf."

It's a reminder he has uttered over the years not to get too caught up in mechanics or strive for the perfect swing, but to hit the ball, find it and get it in the hole as quickly as possible.

That might not be bad advice for Sunday, either.

Just play golf. Don't think about the $10 million at stake.

Furyk twice walked off a green happy to make bogey, made consecutive birdies late in his round that put him atop the leaderboard at East Lake and wound up with an even-par 70 for a one-shot lead over Retief Goosen and Luke Donald.

That set the stage for a FedEx Cup finale that has never had so many possibilities.

Furyk, Goosen and Donald all can win the FedEx Cup and its $10 million bonus by winning the Tour Championship, which comes with a $1.35 million prize of its own. So can Geoff Ogilvy, only three shots behind. Paul Casey and Charley Hoffman, both within five shots of the lead, can win golf's biggest payoff without even winning the tournament.

And there are enough video boards along the back nine that players should have a pretty good idea what they need to do.

"The first part of the scenario is I have to win, and the rest of it I can't control," Furyk said. "So the idea, really ... it makes it very simple. I have to win tomorrow, and the idea is just to go out and do the best I can to do that."

Furyk was at 8-under 202, and a victory Sunday could be a real breakthrough. He has never won three times in a season, and his third PGA Tour title this year might warrant strong consideration for player of the year.

THE TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP

Even so, Furyk is aware not only of how many players are behind, but how many possibilities exist.

■ A victory gives Furyk or Goosen the FedEx Cup as long as Casey isn't the runner-up or Hoffman doesn't finish third alone.

■ Donald can win the cup as long as Matt Kuchar, the top seed, doesn't finish second. Kuchar shot 72 and was 10 shots behind.

■ Ogilvy, who shot a 72 was three shots behind at 5-under 205, can win the $10 million provided Casey isn't second, Hoffman isn't third and Kuchar doesn't find a way to finish seventh.

"In the past, we had an idea who was going to win, or who had already won," Goosen said, referring to Tiger Woods in 2007 and 2009, and Vijay Singh in 2008 when the points system was such that the Fijian had already clinched the cup when he showed up at East Lake.

It starts with playing well on Sunday, when the tee times will be early because rain is in the forecast that could dramatically change the fast, firm conditions of East Lake.

And as Donald showed in the third round, it all can change so quickly.

The Englishman was never out of the lead until he dumped his third shot into the bunker on the par-5 15th up the hill into a far corner of East Lake. He blasted out to about 12 feet, then ran his par putt 3 feet by. Donald hit the next putt too firmly to catch the grain, and he walked off with a shocking double bogey.

Furyk, who holed a 10-footer for birdie, suddenly had a two-shot lead.

"It was frustrating to give away a couple there," Donald said. "But I hit a lot of good shots today. I'm in great position—still just one back, and this is the last Sunday of the regular tour, and I've got a chance to win it all. So that's nice to know."

Goosen has a chance to cap off a solid year with a victory, something he has failed to do. His nine top 10s are second on tour only to Matt Kuchar, although the two-time U.S. Open champion has never come seriously close to winning.

What a time it would be to end that drought. Goosen was asked if ever imagined winning $10 million in a single day when he turned pro.

"Maybe 10 million Zimbabwean dollars," the South African said.

Ogilvy fell out of the hunt quickly, with a bogey on the first hole and a double bogey on the next one. He battled his way around, however, and finished with a 10-foot birdie putt that seemed to take 10 minutes to trickle down the slope and fall in the side of the cup. That left him only three shots behind.

And if anyone needed evidence a low score was available at East Lake, consider Nick Watney. His caddie has been calling him "Melba" all week because Watney is so tired from a long year—and with his wedding a month away—that he's toast. Watney had never heard of Melba toast, which was just as well. He resembled a jalapeno on Saturday, making seven birdies on the back nine for a 28, and shooting a 63 that put him all the way to 2-under 208 and in eighth place.

Phil Mickelson shot a 68 and was seven shots behind, enough to hope, but little more than that. He would need a victory to have any chance of winning the FedEx Cup for the first time. Lefty also needs to finish second to replace Woods at No. 1 in the world ranking.

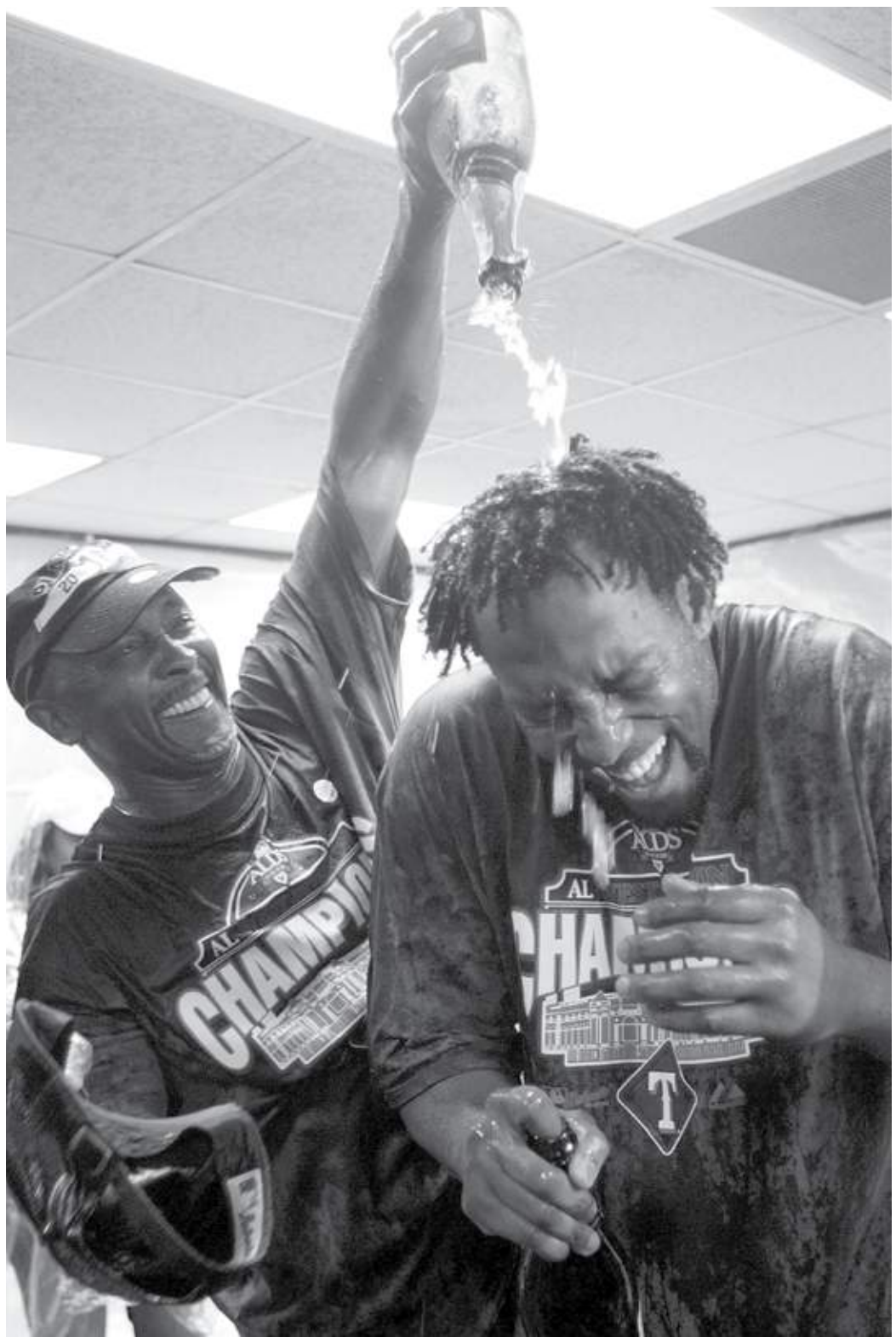
Rangers clinch AL West title with 4-3 win over A's

OAKLAND, California (AP)—The Texas Rangers clinched the American League West title Saturday and their first playoff berth in 11 years after Jorge Cantu hit a tiebreaking homer in the eighth inning for a 4-3 win over the Oakland Athletics.

Players streamed from the Texas dugout after closer Neftali Feliz retired Cliff Pennington on a fly ball to left field for the final out with the potential tying run on second base.

The Rangers became the second big league club to lock up a postseason spot this season, joining the AL Central champion Minnesota Twins.

Texas is the only current major league franchise never to win a playoff series. The Rangers won three AL West crowns from 1996-99, their only postseason appearances, but lost in the first round to the New York Yankees each time.



AP

Texas Rangers' Vladimir Guerrero, right, is doused with champagne after the Rangers defeated the Oakland Athletics 4-3 in a baseball game to clinch the AL West title Saturday, Sept. 25, 2010, in Oakland, Calif.

Rays 9, Mariners 1

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Matt Garza allowed one run over seven innings as AL East-leading Tampa Bay beat Seattle for its fourth straight victory.

Matt Joyce and B.J. Upton homered for the Rays, who moved 1½ games ahead of the New York Yankees. Tampa Bay, bidding for its second division title in three years, has a magic number of two (any combination of Rays wins or Boston losses) to clinch a playoff berth.

Red Sox 7, Yankees 3

At New York, Jon Lester took a no-hit bid into the sixth inning to become the first Boston left-hander in 57 years to win 19 games in a victory over New York.

Lester (19-8) was overpowering before Francisco Cervelli singled off the glove of diving rookie Daniel Nava in left field with one out in the sixth. Lester wound up allowing two hits in seven shutout innings. He won his sixth straight start, extended his scoreless innings streak to 15 and lowered his ERA to 2.96.

Tigers 11, Twins 10, 13 innings

At Detroit, Brandon Inge singled home the winning run in the 13th inning as Detroit damaged Minnesota's chances of earning home-field advantage throughout the AL playoffs.

The AL Central champions fell a game behind Tampa Bay in the race for the best record in the American League.

Blue Jays 5, Orioles 4, 11 innings

At Toronto, Lyle Overbay hit a game-ending homer in the 11th inning to lift Toronto over Baltimore.

Edwin Encarnacion, Aaron Hill and Travis Snider also had solo drives for the Blue Jays, who lead the major leagues with 241 home runs this season, including a baseball-best 140 at home. Toronto hit a team-record 244 homers in 2000.

White Sox 6, Angels 2

At Anaheim, California, John Danks pitched eight impressive innings and Manny Ramirez capped a four-run third with an RBI double and Juan Pierre pushed across a run with a suicide squeeze to lead Chicago over Los Angeles.

Danks (14-11) allowed two runs and seven hits to establish a career high for wins. The left-hander's first victory since Sept. 4 ended a drought of 18 consecutive starts by White Sox pitchers without a win — a franchise record. The rotation was 0-9 with a 6.45 ERA during that 18-game stretch.

Indians 7, Royals 1

At Cleveland, Choo Shin-soo had four hits as Cleveland beat Zack Greinke for the first time in two years to move out of last place in the AL Central with a victory over Kansas City.

Jeanmar Gomez (4-5) pitched five solid innings to win for the first time beating Baltimore on Aug. 12.

Padres 4, Reds 3

At San Diego, Chris Denorfia doubled in the winning run off rookie Aroldis Chapman with two outs in the ninth inning to give the San Diego Padres a victory over the Cincinnati Reds and a share of the National League West lead with San Francisco.

Rockies 10, Giants 9, 10 innings

At Denver, Troy Tulowitzki capped a four-hit night with an RBI double in the 10th inning as Colorado gave its faint playoff hopes a boost with a victory over San Francisco.

Tulowitzki homered, doubled and had five RBIs to help the Rockies snap a five-game slide and pull within four games of first place in the NL West.

Mets 5, Phillies 2

At Philadelphia, Lucas Duda hit a three-run double five-run seventh inning as New York snapped Philadelphia's 11-game winning streak.

The NL East-leading Phillies missed out on a chance to clinch a fourth straight playoff berth — all they need is one win or Atlanta loss and they're in — with their first defeat since Sept. 11 in New York. Philadelphia's magic number to secure its fourth consecutive division title is two.

Braves 5, Nationals 0

At Washington, Braves manager Bobby Cox earned his 2,500th win, getting five effective innings from Derek Lowe and a three-run homer from Alex Gonzalez.

The 69-year-old Cox, set to retire at the end of the season, became the fourth major league manager to reach the milestone. The Braves snapped a four-game losing streak.

Cubs 7, Cardinals 3

At Chicago, Sam Fuld hit a go-ahead two-run single off Chris Carpenter and Casey Coleman pitched seven effective innings to lead Chicago to the victory over St. Louis.

Blake DeWitt and Aramis Ramirez had two hits and two RBIs apiece for Chicago, which trailed 3-0 in the third. Coleman allowed two earned runs and five hits.

Marlins 4, Brewers 0

At Milwaukee, Chris Volstad pitched into the seventh inning in another scoreless outing and rookie Mike Stanton hit his 21st homer to push Florida over Milwaukee.

Pirates 6, Astros 4

At Pittsburgh, Pedro Alvarez hit a three-run homer and Zach Duke pitched into the seventh inning for the second consecutive start to lead Pittsburgh over Houston.

Duke (8-14) was pulled by manager John Russell after giving up Humberto Quintero's leadoff single in the seventh. The left-hander allowed three runs and seven hits while walking one and striking out three.

Diamondbacks 5, Dodgers 2

At Phoenix, Cole Gillespie hit a tiebreaking three-run homer in the sixth inning and Daniel Hudson turned in another outstanding outing as Arizona downed Los Angeles.

Reds' Chapman throws fastest pitch

SAN DIEGO—Aroldis Chapman was summoned from the bullpen one batter too late to make a difference in the game. No matter. The 22-year-old Cincinnati Reds left-hander made do by making history Friday night, throwing the fastest pitch recorded in a major league game, a 105-mph fastball.

The blazing pitch pushed a white-hot pennant race to the back burner. Yes, the San Diego Padres won the game 4-3 to pull ahead of the Atlanta Braves in the National League wild-card race. Sure, the San Francisco Giants all but buried the Colorado Rockies thanks to a dominant performance by Tim Lincecum.

But the lingering memory was of a now-you-see-it, did-I-actually-see-it fastball to Tony Gwynn(notes) in the eighth inning. The pitch was not a fluke: Chapman threw 25 pitches in his 1 1/3 innings of relief, and every one was at least 100 mph. He didn't throw a slider. He didn't throw a changeup. Why would he?

From Walter Johnson to Bob Feller to Steve Dalkowski to J.R. Richard to Nolan Ryan to Stephen Strasburg, blistering velocity is etched forever in baseball lore. Rush Chapman to the head of the list. Has anybody in the history of the game had a comparable 25-pitch sequence?

"I didn't see it until the ball was behind me," Gwynn said. "I was trying not to look at the radar reading because I'd be intimidated. I saw how hard he was throwing and just tried to be slow and work my hands."

The 105-mph pitch was inside for a ball and evened the count at 2-2. Gwynn had fouled off the previous two pitches and fouled off the next before striking out. He ought to be pleased with his effort, forcing Chapman to make seven pitches, the slowest of which was 102 mph.

Gwynn's father, Tony, a Hall-of-Famer and one of baseball greatest hitters, never saw a pitch as fast as the one Chapman threw. Maybe nobody else has, either. Since radar guns were introduced in the 1980s, the fastest pitch recorded was 104.8 mph by Joel Zumaya of the Detroit Tigers in a playoff game Oct. 10, 2006. Chapman, who defected from the Cuban national team in 2009, was clocked at 104 on Sept. 1 in his second major league appearance and also hit 105 mph with a pitch for Triple-A Louisville earlier this season.

Chapman, speaking through an interpreter with bags of ice strapped across his arm, credited his stepped-up velocity Friday to the fact that he'd pitched only once in the last week. He didn't allow an earned run in his first eight relief appearances after being promoted Aug. 31, but the Astros nicked him for two runs a week ago. He pitched a scoreless inning on Monday against the Brewers, then had three more days off.

"My arm had been a little sore and the rest helped," he said. "I felt as good as I did a couple weeks ago. Not the best I've ever felt, but I felt good."

Rocball to open new season next month

The 2010-2011 Rocball season is just around the corner.

A league is being organized and is expected to kick off next month. Leading the list of interested participants in the World Rocball League are defending champion Fanians. Joining them are teams from Kagman, Koblerville, San Jose, and Tanapag.

Rocball creator James Feger, in a press release, added that besides the regular league, he is also planning to set up weekend tournaments for Tinian and Rota players.

In January next year, he is also working out on having a four-person sand Rocball tournament. Feger is also hoping to arrange a Rocball tournament in sand or indoor courts between professional volleyball players visiting the island next year and local bets.

Meanwhile, teams interested in joining the upcoming leagues and tournament are requested to form an eigh-person squad and turn in their rosters to Feger at the Marianas High School Gymnasium. ***(PR)***

BURAOT

From Page 28

knocked in seven of his 19 markers in the extra five minutes to foil Docomo's bid for a comeback win.

Docomo trailed by 10 at the end of the third period, but managed to send the game in overtime, 91-all behind the 19 points of Jun Estolas in the fourth quarter.

Estolas finished with 41 points on a losing cause. He and Ron Gamboa were the only two double figurer scorers for Docomo with the latter adding 21 points.

Buraot besides drawing a combined 65 points from Sablan and Fernando got 21 markers from big man Gil Gapor.

With Sablan on target, Buraot took a five-point lead at the end of the opening quarter, 22-17. Sablan, Gapor, and Fernando made it a 41-34 advantage at the half and the trio continued to work wonders for Buraot to pad the lead to 10, entering the final period.

The fourth quarter then became an Estolas show before Buraot regained its composure in overtime to escape with a five-point win.

Atalig Associates 68, IT&E 66

Atalig Associates recorded its first win in two games after thwarting IT&E, 68-66.

Atalig Associates prevailed in the low-scoring match after making three free throws in the closing seconds of the fourth quarter.

Edwin Santos paced Atalig Associates with 10 points.

Marlon De Dios had 15 markers for IT&E, which was in front at the end of the first quarter, 20-16. Ivan De Vero chipped in 14 points, tallying seven points in the first canto.

Atalig Associates answered back in the second quarter to grab the lead at the half, 38-36, behind Mel Capalad's eight markers in the second period.

The game continued to be close, ending up in a deadlock in the third period, 51-all. It was another seesaw battle in the fourth canto before IT&E got into foul trouble, sending Atalig Associates to the foul line for the game-deciding free throws.

First Game

Buraot 105 – Sablan 44, Gapor 21, Fernando 19, Swain 8, Lee 6, Hidalgo 5, Reyes 2

Docomo 100 – Estolas 41, Gamboa 21, Villarin 9, J Lee 8, Sharry 6, Tabora 6, Esdrilon 5, Manolo 4

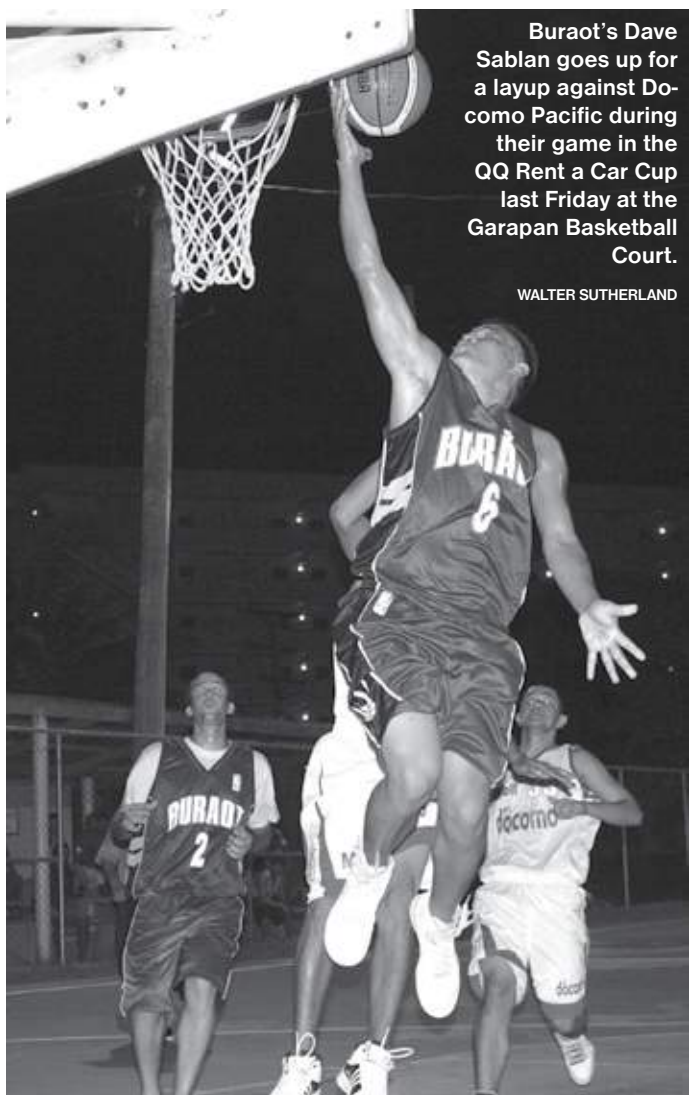
Scoring by quarters: 22-17, 41-34, 71-61, 91-91, 105-100.

Second Game

Atalig Associates 68 – Santos 11 Capalad 8, Lisua 8, Nonato 8,Tengco 8, Camacho 7, Mina 6, Tomayo 6, Hernandez 3,

IT&E 66 – De Dios 15, De Vero 14, Peredo 12, Tumaquip 7, Dayrit 6, B. Montano 4, J. Montano 4, Lazona 2, Naraja 2

Scoring by quarters: 16-20, 38-36, 51-51, 68-66.



Buraot's Dave Sablan goes up for a layup against Docomo Pacific during their game in the QQ Rent a Car Cup last Friday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

WALTER SUTHERLAND

MOBIL

From Page 28

An Armatech error returned possession to Mobil and Joemary Tumaquip made it a 10-point game, 87-77, after he drilled a teardrop shot.

Mobil then ran down the remaining time, while Armatech attempted several times from downtown, hoping to launch a big rally, but connected only one off Elmer Esdrelon's trey from the top key.

Esdrelon paced Armatech with 24 points, but he had several misses when he returned to the game midway in the fourth after a brief breather. His last two triples were the only baskets Armatech made in the last five minutes of the championship match.

Armatech had limited offensive options in the fourth canto with Esdrelon still trying to regain his form, and to make this worse, Junar Guiab fouled out at the 2:47 mark after scoring 19 markers. Guiab and Esdrelon left the court for less than two minutes for a much-deserved break but when they returned Estolas and company had already broken loose.

The Armatech-Mobil tiff was neck-and-neck in the opening period and the match was almost back to square one at the break, as the latter led by only a deuce, 36-34.

Then Armatech took the driver's seat in the third period after making good substitutions, but it still could not pull away, as Estolas kept Mobil afloat.

Spectators watched the third quarter slowed down by foul troubles with both teams entering the penalty mark early. However, they were treated to a sort of comic show when Mobil's Kelvin Fitial grabbed the rebound after a missed free throw from Armatech and went for a shot on their foe's goal. Fitial nailed the basket and to make the blunder funnier, referee Jess Pabula called a foul on Armatech's Mel Manibusan, who hit the Mobil center on the arm.

The booboo prompted head referee Ray Lizama to huddle with his fellow officials and while waiting for the group's verdict, the crowd and even the players shared a good laugh, toning down the growing pressure in the closely fought game.

Once back to business, Armatech stretched the lead to as much as eight, before Estolas scored Mobil's last five points in the third canto to keep Mobil in the thick of the fight for the coveted title.

Helping Estolas steal the win from Armatech was Jomary Tumaquip, who chipped in 16 points and played better than the touted big men of Mobil.

Mobil 93 – Estolas 32, Tumaquip 16, Rabauliman 13, Lizama 9, Factor 9, Lizama 5, De Guzman 2, Ruluked 2.

Armatech 80 – Esdrelon 24, Guiab 19, Mendiola 15, Manibusan 8, Talania 6, Berline 4, Capalad 4, Schuler 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-14, 36-34, 63-66, 93-80.

FATHER

From Page 28

ed last year, but the 2010 edition of the race was still special for Kabiriel, as he did the event with his son, Koen. Koen was later named top finisher in the U10 division after making it to the finish line at Banzai Cliff in less than 40 minutes.

The father and son tandem also took part in the Banzai Memorial Run, which was their first race together, and the younger Kabiriel is hoping to join more events with her dad in tow.

The older Kabiriel said he is using the series of short races to prepare for long distance events in the last quarter of the year. These include next month's Coffee Trail, the Turkey Trot in November, and the Christmas Island Relay. Jack added his pace in last Saturday's race was a bit slow, as some of his running buddies missed the event.

Still Kabiriel had about two minutes of lead against runner-up Chad Love (22:21). Rounding out the Top 3 was Gary Pinkenton, who clocked in at 22:17.

Mamiko Oshima-Berger was the first female finisher, timing in at 24:30, followed by Amber Goguen (25:18) and Akane Imaya (27:17).

Angelo Jones and Jessica Soll were the first boys and girls U18 finishers, submitting 23:33 and 28:18, respectively.

Last Saturday's race drew 175 participants, more than 60 runners from last year's total (111).

The 5K run was a family event with SIS students bringing in their mothers, fathers, and siblings to the race. Count the dogs, too, as more than of them completed the race and drank water after the early morning run from Banzai Cliff to Cowtown and back.

HI-5

From Page 28

with 26 points, making the winning basket in the dying seconds of the game.

The match was tied last at 54-54, with a Hi-5 player on the stripe for a pair of free throws. The shooter missed both, but fortunately Rollon was there for the offensive rebound and the putback.

The Rollers then pulled up for a Hail Mary shot from half court, but missed as the buzzer went off.

Rollon was on top of Hi-5's offense early, tallying eight points in the opening period, which ended with his team ahead by a deuce, 12-10. Rollon added six more markers in the second period, increasing Hi-5's lead to four at the break, 24-20.

Rollon continued to sizzle for Hi-5 in the third and drew help from Ariel Urbano to give their team a 42-36 cushion, entering the final quarter.

Despite falling behind most of the game, Rollers refused to quit. They kept coming back and even briefly took the lead in the closing minutes of the game before Rollon hit the money shot.

In last Thursday's game, the Sonics made good adjustments in the second half to beat the Ol'Aces.

Trailing at halftime, 24-30, the Sonics held the Ol'Aces to nine points to grab the driver's seat, 42-39, going into the final quarter.

Leo Galarse then helped keep the Sonics in the lead, firing six of his 22 points in the fourth period.

The Ol'Aces took the lead in the opening quarter, 14-12, behind Ryan Lisua's six points. The Ol'Aces remained on top in the second canto before the Sonics got their act together in the second half to steal the win.

Trevor Ogumoro paced the Ol'Aces with 11 points.

Thursday's Game

Sonics 59 – Galarse 22, Palacios 11, Ajoste 11, Jeon 5, Cadiang 4, Ecalnea 4, Villanueva 2

Ol'Aces 52 – Ogumoro 11, Lisua 10, Tomokane 9, Maratita 8, Taylor 6, Webb 4, Nekaifes 2, Kautz 2

Scoring by quarters: 12-14, 24-30, 42-39, 59-52.

Friday's Game

Hi-5 56 – Rollon 26, F. Macahito 12, Urbano 10, Salem 4, Iglesias 2, G. Macahito 2

Rollers C 54 – Mabini 18, Francisco 12, Sacramento 7, Lee 6, Rangamar 4, Teregeyo 4, Norita 2.

Scoring by quarters: 12-10, 24-20, 42-36, 56-54.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	93	61	.604	—
New York	92	63	.594	1 1/2
Boston	86	68	.558	7
Toronto	79	75	.513	14
Baltimore	61	93	.396	32

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Minnesota	92	62	.597	—
Chicago	82	72	.532	10
Detroit	79	75	.513	13
Cleveland	64	91	.413	28 1/2
Kansas City	63	91	.409	29

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Texas	86	68	.558	—
Oakland	77	77	.500	9
Los Angeles	75	79	.487	11
Seattle	58	96	.377	28

NATIONAL LAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	93	62	.600	—
Atlanta	87	68	.561	6
Florida	77	77	.500	15 1/2
New York	75	79	.487	17 1/2
Washington	66	89	.426	27

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cincinnati	86	69	.555	—
St. Louis	79	75	.513	6 1/2
Houston	74	81	.477	12
Milwaukee	72	82	.468	13 1/2
Chicago	70	84	.455	15 1/2
Pittsburgh	54	100	.351	31 1/2

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Diego	87	67	.565	—
San Francisco	87	68	.561	1/2
Colorado	83	71	.539	4
Los Angeles	75	80	.484	12 1/2
Arizona	63	92	.406	24 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Atlanta 5, Washington 0
Chicago Cubs 7, St. Louis 3
San Diego 4, Cincinnati 3
Pittsburgh 6, Houston 4
N.Y. Mets 5, Philadelphia 2
Florida 4, Milwaukee 0
Arizona 5, L.A. Dodgers 2
Colorado 10, San Francisco 9, 10 innings
Toronto 5, Baltimore 4, 11 innings
Texas 4, Oakland 3
Boston 7, N.Y. Yankees 3
Cleveland 7, Kansas City 1
Detroit 11, Minnesota 10, 13 innings
Tampa Bay 9, Seattle 1
Chicago White Sox 6, L.A. Angels 2

x-clinched division

TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

ATLANTA (AP)–Scores Saturday from the Tour Championship, the $7.5 million US PGA Tour FedEx Cup finale at the 7,319-yard, par-70 East Lake Golf Club:

THIRD ROUND

Jim Furyk	67-65-70–202
Retief Goosen	71-66-66–203
Luke Donald	66-66-71–203
Geoff Ogilvy	66-67-72–205
Paul Casey	66-71-69–206
Kevin Na	69-68-69–206
Charley Hoffman	71-67-69–207
Nick Watney	71-74-63–208
Phil Mickelson	69-72-68–209
Kevin Streelman	70-70-69–209
Jason Day	69-69-71–209
Ryan Moore	70-72-68–210
Camilo Villegas	73-69-68–210
Steve Stricker	74-68-68–210
K.J. Choi	68-68-74–210
Bubba Watson	75-69-67–211
Zach Johnson	74-72-66–212
Bo Van Pelt	74-69-69–212
Robert Allenby	71-70-71–212
Tim Clark	70-73-70–213
Ernie Els	71-71-71–213
Hunter Mahan	69-71-73–213
Adam Scott	74-71-69–214
Matt Kuchar	72-70-72–214
Justin Rose	74-68-72–214
Ben Crane	71-69-76–216
Dustin Johnson	73-71-73–217
Jeff Overton	75-70-73–218
Ryan Palmer	74-72-73–219
Martin Laird	75-73-74–222

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weekend Sports

Youth competitions spice up week

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The talents of youth athletes in the CNMI were showcased in various competitions last week.

In the ongoing 2010-2011 Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association Volleyball League, defending champion Grace Christian Academy boosted its bid for an undefeated regular season in the varsity division after romping to an 8-0 record.

In the junior varsity division, Whispering Palms is looking good too with its 8-2 slate.

In the Rotary U19 caging, Rollers A, Sparks, and the Saints recorded separates wins to move up to the team standings in the youth league.

In the 2010 Oceania U20 Area Championships at the Barlow Park in Cairns, Australia, the CNMI's Lia Rangamar won a silver medal in the javelin throw. She recorded 35.17 meters to place runner-up behind the Cook Islands' Patricia Taea, who took the gold medal after posting 37.17m.

Joining Rangamar in the Land Down Under and competing against some of the best athletes in the region were Dougla Dillay, Relynn Sapong, Brandon Philip, and Ryan Ichihara.

In other results of an off-island event, Mieko Carey topped an MTB race in Otaki, Japan.

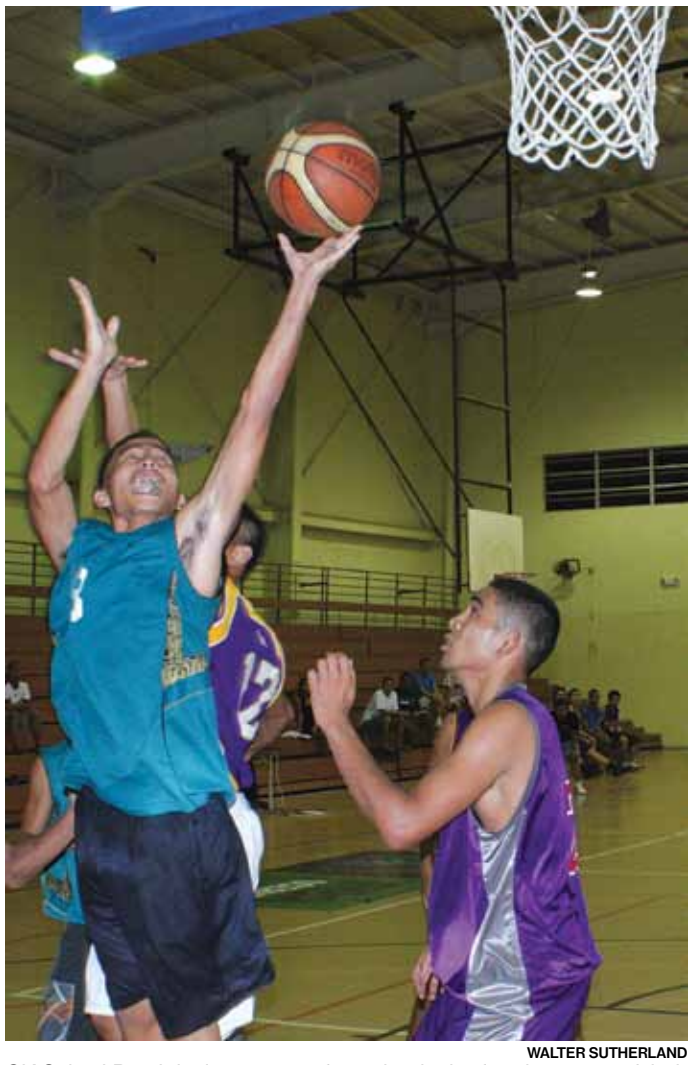
Carey was among the more than 400 participants in the 42-kilometer race and completed the course in two hours and 32 minutes, making her the first female finisher and 16th overall.

Back to local events, Bayani-Soul Jazz avoided a regular season shutout after beating Mobil in the last playing day in the UFO caging. Also winning in the final day of the elimination round was MAFEA-Ali'i Konflikt, which topped Northern Marianas Bartenders Association-Island Apparel.

In softball, Peleliu booked the first finals seat in the 2010 Palauan Community Association-Docomo Pacific fundraising tournament at the Dandan Elementary School Ballfiled, while SaiPal took the second one to arrange a championship rematch with the former. The two teams were squaring off for the title yesterday and results were unavailable at press time.

Results of the 2010 Leapfrog Race were known less than an hour after the event kicked off with Southern High School's Ben Wood and Eric Cooke beating 12 other pairs.

The Southern duo completed the unique bike-run race from Paupau Beach to Banzai Cliff and back in 39 minutes and three seconds.



WALTER SUTHERLAND
CK Saints' Ben Iglesias goes up for a shot in the fourth quarter of their Rotary caging game against the G-Stars Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Joshua Berger gestures as he and several riders leaves Paupau Beach to head to Banzai Cliff during the 2010 Leapfrog Race.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Mieko Carey poses with her bike before the MTB race in Otaki, Japan.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Lia Rangamar, seen here training for the javelin throw at the Oleai Sports Complex, won a silver medal in the Oceania championship in Cairns, Australia last Thursday.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Bayani-Soul Jazz's Eugene Mangali goes for a fancy layup against SIP-Mobil's Pando Muleta during their game in the UFO caging last week at the JP Center Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Peleliu pitcher catches the ball during their title game against SaiPal in the 2010 Palauan Community Association-Docomo Pacific softball tournament at the Dandane Elementary School Ballfield yesteray.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Whispering Palms' Negahr Rastguiy makes a return against Mt. Carmel School during their junior varsity volleyball game last week at Whispering Palms' court in Navy Hill.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Mobil clinches title in Emon Lodge league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Perennial MVP Jun Estolas gave justice to his role as team captain of Mobil, leading his squad to a 93-80 win against Armatech during the championship game in the 2010 Emon Lodge 179 Freemasonry Inter-Color Basketball League yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Estolas exploded for 32 points in the title match, canning a variety of shots that allowed Mobil to recover in the last 5:34 of the game en route to ruling the inaugural caging.

His buzzer-beating triple in the third gave Mobil momentum going into the fourth, as Armatech's lead was sliced to three, 63-66.

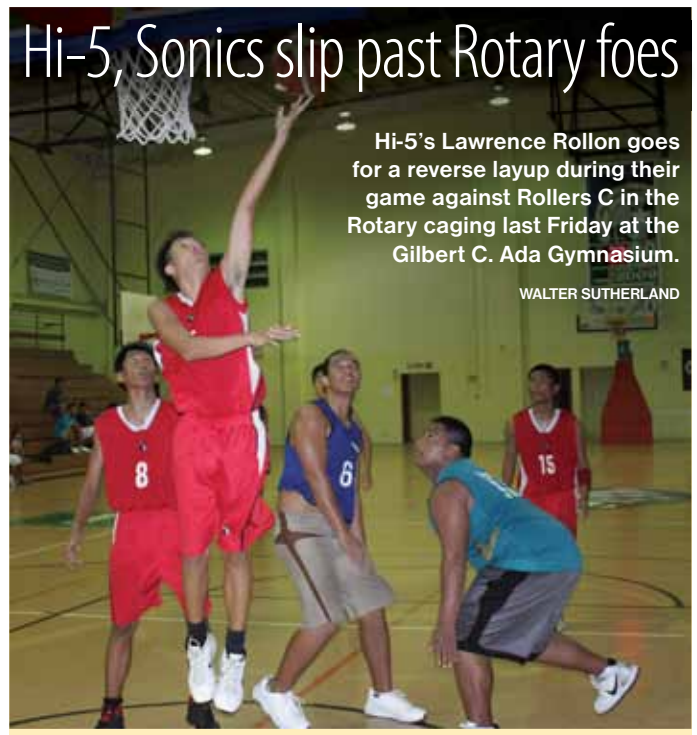
Midway in fourth quarter, Estolas anchored a 14-0 run, turning a 69-75 deficit to an 83-75 lead, with 2:29 left in the game. The dependable Mobil guard had eight points in than run, making two triples and two free throws.

Armatech broke its three-minute silence with a layup from Peter Mendiola, but Estolas answered with a banked jumper with only a second left from their 24-second shot clock, upping Mobil's lead to eight again, 85-77, going into the final two minutes of the game.

See MOBIL on Page 26

Mobil's Marvin Rabauliman in a hang time move against Armatech big men Mel Manibusan, left, and Bruce Berline during their title game in the Emon Lodge caging yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Hi-5, Sonics slip past Rotary foes



Hi-5's Lawrence Rollon goes for a reverse layup during their game against Rollers C in the Rotary caging last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. WALTER SUTHERLAND

BY WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Hi-5 and the Sonics hung tough in the homestretch to pull off close wins in the 18th Annual Rotary Club Youth Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Hi-5 edged out the Rollers C, 56-54, last Friday, while the Sonics fended off the Ol'Aces, 59-52, last Thursday.

Lawrence Rollon led Hi-5

See HI-5 on Page 26

Buraot survives Docomo in OT

BY WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Buraot notched its second win in the 2010 QQ Rent A Car Basketball Cup after outclassing Docomo Pacific in overtime, 105-100, last Friday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Dave Sablan top-scored for Buraot with 44 points, but it was Angelo Fernando, who delivered the win for the team in overtime. Fernando

See BURAOT on Page 26

Father and son top SIS 5K Fun Run

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Veteran runner Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel defended his title in the 10th Annual 5K Fun Run after completing last Saturday's race in 20 minutes and 26 seconds.

His winning time this year was behind the 19:51 he record-

See FATHER on Page 26

Participants in the 10th Annual SIS 5K Fun Run sprint from the starting line at Banzai Cliff during last Saturday's race. ROSELYN B. MONROYO